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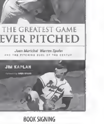
# Summer 2011 Guide

Special Issue Inside!

Meet
Juan Marichal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# NEWS & OPINION

## LETTERS

### Recall Brown

Jerry Brown simply needs to be recalled! How dare he give them more money when we have people losing their jobs or what's left of them, teachers are being laid off and vital programs that are needed by the poor, the disabled, and the elderly are being cut...not to mention education for our kids. Did he make a deal with the prison guards to under-educate our kids, to keep them with job security forever? And what happened to the prisoners being released? Was that another pipe dream or did he have a hand in that, too? Well, I guess when they gave him all the money to elect him they knew they could count on him, after all, isn't he senile already? He should be in a rest home, not in the governor's office! Recall Jerry Brown.

*Rachel Contreras, Riverside, Calif*

### Bankruptcy Not a Bad Idea

I now pay more state, county, sales, and city taxes than federal taxes. This state needs to either cut spending drastically or go bankrupt as far as I am concerned. And obviously Jerry Brown has no intention of cutting spending in any meaningful way. My latest thinking is bankruptcy could be the best thing that ever happened to California and the legislators who can't even do simple math problems. I voted for Brown, but he just made the next governor a Republican at best or showed we are headed for bankruptcy at worst. Or is it worst, when you really think about it? Yeah, I know, more taxes fixes everything. Except I am paying 40K a year mostly to support useless do-nothings who give me about $2,000 worth of services in return.

*Jim Moore, Tujunga, Calif*

[illegible] Education & [illegible]

### I Feel Validated

I am writing to thank you for writing such an inspirational, informative, and motivational article on young entrepreneurship. I am one of those twenty-somethings trying to start up my own small business. I was thrilled to learn how many others in the Bay Area are doing the same! The fact that there are so many people trying to get into small business is not considered a competitive threat to me; I think it's motivating! The "circle" of people I know are not supportive or understanding of my ambition, and I have recently been frustrated and confused as to why they would be like that. Now that I have read your article, I realize I am not surrounding myself with like-minded people and that is why I am not receiving the appropriate feedback! (Duh!) I also have new networking leads to connect with just from reading your article, and you have validated my original idea that being an entrepreneur is truly my destiny.

So I just want to thank you for that, and now I will move forward with a rejuvenated spirit!

*Chelsea Brown*
*Founder, The CB Enterprise*
*San Pablo*

[illegible] 4/27

### Stuffed with Mushrooms

Hmmm, perhaps the fact that mushroom hunters were collecting two hundred pounds of mushrooms might possibly have an effect on the prevalence of mushrooms? Have we not learned from all the other plants and animals we have driven to near extinction?

*Linda Landau, Orinda*

### Shroom Talk

It was good to see some of these mycological (that's science talk for the study of fungi and mushrooms) topics addressed, especially the serious and ongoing problem of habitat destruction, whether through SOD or bulldozers.

Although feral pigs tear up (rototill, really) the ground under oaks, they do not actually eat the chanterelles; they much prefer acorns, as do most of our oak woodland wildlife. I assure you that despite SOD's impacts on live oaks and tan oaks in some of our coastal forests, both David Campbell and David Rust still hunt porcini up in Sonoma and Mendocino counties, where the porcini grows with pines, and the chanterelles grow with pines and fir.

The focus of this article was on the decline of edible species of fungi, as the burgeoning man-made habitat of wood chips is not gonna fill that gap, no matter how interesting or mind-bending some of these wood chip fungi are. Wood chip morels, no matter how lovely, are no flavor match for the wild versions. And yes, I have done a side-by-side taste test. Overhunting, human competition, habitat destruction, etc., etc., all impact the amounts of fungi that get found by casual hunters.

Oak trees provide far more than just fungi for gourmands; they are a vital part of the wild landscape, providing food and shelter for many, many California natives and even introduced wildlife (red squirrels, feral pigs, etc.)

We will miss them when they're gone. For an interesting synopsis of current SOD research, and a bit of hopeful news, check out the review of Dr. Bruce McPherson's talk to BAMS last fall, here, on the Bay Area Mycological Society's yahoogroups list: http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/BayAreaMushrooms

And although we appreciate his field prowess, Norm Andresen actually leads walks for the MSSF, not BAMS. For the record, both Norm and David Rust were also former MSSF presidents.

*Debbie Viess*
*Co-Founder, BAMS*
*Oakland*

[illegible]

### Israel Not at Fault

Letter-writer Jeff Hoffman is absolutely right in saying that the two sides involved in the war against Israel are not equal.

On one side, a religiously-pluralistic democracy, with 2,900 years of history in the land, whose children have invented the Pentium chip, the cell phone, and countless advances in medicine and agriculture.

On the other, the Shiite Muslim jihad embodied in the Hamas Covenant declaration that all of Israel is "waqf," or sacred Muslim land, from which infidels must be exterminated. In 1967, after successfully repelling invaders, Israel offered the regained land in exchange for peace.

The blood of every dead or impoverished Palestinian since then is on the heads of the Arab League members who, in Kabul on 9/1/67, rejected the offer because accepting it would have meant acknowledging Israel's right to negotiate.

The greatest enemy of the "Palestinian" people, who came into existence in 1968, is the government-run schools and media more intent on teaching children to hate Jews than to equip them to be civilized and functioning members of the 21st century.

*David Altschul, J.D., Berkeley*

### Corrections

In our 5/4 theater preview, "Disassembly in One Cut," we said that Desdemona Chiang played the role of Lady MacBeth in the Impact Theatre play *Macbeth*. She actually played Lady MacDuff.

In our 4/27 Legalization Nation column, "Narco-NIMBYism in San Jose?" we misspelled the founder of All American Cannabis Club, Dave Hodges. Also, the club is two months old, not eighteen months old. ■

**Letters Policy**
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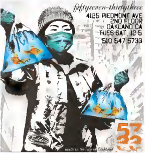

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# YOO: OBAMA SHOULD HAVE TORTURED BIN LADEN

The infamous UC Berkeley professor says the al Qaeda leader should have been water-boarded, and not killed.

By Robert Gammon

An odd alliance formed last week in the wake of **Osama bin Laden**'s death. Some conservative and liberal commentators joined in criticism of President **Barack Obama** and the **US Navy SEAL**s operation, contending that more should have been done to capture the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks and avoid killing him. On the left, Salon blogger **Glenn Greenwald** argued that the al Qaeda leader should have been treated as a criminal, not a warrior, and apprehended and brought to the United States to be tried in American courts. Greenwald also noted that bin Laden was unarmed when he was shot in the head, although the SEALs reportedly said the terrorist leader was reaching for a gun.

Greenwald's reaction was not unusual for liberals grappling to make sense of the country's euphoria over bin Laden's death. A headline from the left-leaning magazine *Good* seemed to sum up the uncomfortable feelings: "Since When Are Liberals Cool with Shooting an Unarmed Man in the Face?"

Criticism from the right, meanwhile, was led by **UC Berkeley** law school professor **John Yoo**, a key architect of the Bush administration's torture program. In an op-ed published in the *Wall Street Journal*, Yoo also contended that bin Laden should have been captured. But for a different reason. Yoo wrote that Obama should have ordered that bin Laden be taken to Guantanamo Bay and subjected to Bush-era interrogation policies. In short, the tenured Cal professor wanted bin Laden to be water-boarded.

Not surprisingly, Yoo and other Republicans also argued that the bin Laden operation vindicated the Bush administration's "enhanced interrogation techniques" program. They contended that a nugget of information gleaned from 9/11 operational mastermind **Khalid Sheikh Mohammed** during "tough" interrogations eventually led to bin Laden's whereabouts. Mohammed was water-boarded 183 times. Yoo and the Republicans, however, failed to note that the torture sessions also resulted in numerous false leads and time wasted, not to mention international embarrassment.

In addition, US Senator **Dianne Feinstein** of California, chairwoman of the **Senate Intelligence Committee**, refuted Yoo's claim. Feinstein said locating the world's top terrorist was primarily the result of "red teaming," a concerted effort by US intelligence to verify information — something that was glaringly absent in the run-up to the **Iraq War**. She also said that torturing prisoners was unwarranted and unnecessary. "I happen to know a good deal about how those interrogations were conducted and in my view nothing justifies the kind of procedures that were used," Feinstein said, according to the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Regardless, a great majority of Americans have come to the conclusion that Obama did the right thing. A poll conducted by **Rasmussen**, which is widely considered to be conservative-leaning, found that 86 percent of respondents approved of the president's decision in the bin Laden shooting. An NBC poll showed that 80 percent of Americans thought that killing bin Laden was justified. And Gallup's daily tracking poll revealed that Obama's job approval rating jumped from 43 percent in late April to 51 percent late last week.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans also agreed with the president's decision to not release photos of the dead terrorist leader, the NBC poll showed. In an interview with *60 Minutes*, President Obama explained his decision making, saying that he had no desire to gloat. "We don't need to spike the football," he said. The White House had been considering releasing the photos in order to quell conspiracy theories that bin Laden is still alive. But the administration noted that the gruesome pictures could spark a backlash in Muslim countries and put US armed forces at risk.

The president also disclosed that his national security team was deeply divided over whether to go ahead with the raid in Pakistan because there was no concrete evidence that bin Laden was in the targeted compound. But Obama said that he ultimately decided that the risks of a failed mission were outweighed by the possibility "of us finally getting our man." He acknowledged, however, that the mission might have been "the longest forty minutes" of his life.

GRADUATION SEASON: JOHN YOO HAS THE HONOR OF HOODING HIS J.D. STUDENTS
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## Three-Dot Roundup

Environmentalists and neighborhood groups who object to the **Oakland Zoo**'s expansion plans say they will appeal the city planning commission's approval of the project to the city council. ... Oakland City Attorney **John Russo** made it official last week, announcing that he is resigning in June to become Alameda's city manager. ... Some Oakland unions said they will not agree to compensation concessions this year unless the city's police union agrees to contribute 9 percent to its pension plan, the *Oakland Tribune* reported. Mayor **Jean Quan** has proposed mass layoffs and mandated furlough days if the unions refuse to agree to cuts. ... The **University of California** is considering a proposal to charge higher tuition at more popular campuses, such as Cal and UCLA, than at less popular schools in an effort to raise funds for the cash-strapped system, the *LA Times* reported. ... California's "Dream Act," which would allow illegal immigrant college students to have access to private education grants, won approval in the state assembly and is expected to pass the senate and be signed into law by the governor. The new law would apply to undocumented students who graduated from California high schools. ... Governor **Jerry Brown**'s plan to eliminate redevelopment agencies throughout the state is unconstitutional because it would use local tax dollars to close the state's budget deficit next year, the nonpartisan **Legislative Counsel's Office** said. ... Brown's administration also reported that state tax revenues are $2 billion higher than expected this year. However, the governor downplayed the revenue surge and said it would not affect his budget plans.

Oakland urban farming pioneer **Novella Carpenter** plans to reopen her urban farm stand after raising the $2,500 needed for city permits. Carpenter also wants to reform city rules to make it easier for urban farmers to raise livestock and slaughter it on their property. ... And the **California Public Utilities Commission** approved a plan to remove four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River in Northern California to restore a decimated salmon run. ●

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

LEGALIZATION NATION

# POT FOR PTSD GETS FDA GO-AHEAD

But politics likely will crush the study in its cradle.

By David Downs

Largely banned since 1940, the field of medical cannabis research in the United States is celebrating a symbolic sign of acceptance this month: the **US Food and Drug Administration** approval of a study that gives pot to veterans suffering chronic post-traumatic stress disorder. Dr. **Rick Doblin**, executive director of the nonprofit **Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies** in Santa Cruz, California, said the FDA approved on April 28 his group's protocol for a study on the effects of marijuana on symptoms of PTSD. According to the study plan, neurochemical research shows that pot may relieve chronic post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms by interacting with the brain's endocannabinoid system.

Post-traumatic stress is a severe anxiety disorder that may appear after psychologically traumatic events. Veterans suffering from PTSD will often report flashbacks, nightmares, anger, hypervigilance, and avoidance of stimuli associated with the trauma. Symptoms last longer than a month and lead to "clinically significant distress and impairment."

Battle-damaged war veterans are already self-medicating with pot to treat symptoms like insomnia, anxiety, and depression, clinicians have found. The new study seeks to quantify the efficacy of those practices. Fifty veterans in Arizona will be the subject of the study, and they all have chronic PTSD — the most stubborn kind, Doblin said.

Pot "helps people not have nightmares," Doblin explained. "They sleep better. That's one of the main reasons why people use it. Another reason is it focuses people's attention on the here and now. It moves them a little ways out of being burdened by the past."

The FDA approval represents a historic landmark in cannabis research, Doblin said. It's the first FDA-approved study in at least thirty years that would give cannabis to patients for home use. As a sign of how hesitant the FDA was, Doblin's group had to assure the FDA that the veterans in the study would not go out and sell their weed on the street corner.

The study also calls for veterans to smoke weed with differing levels of active cannabinoids THC and CBD to determine if one, the other, or a balance of both proves more effective. Veterans will also either smoke or vaporize the plant to better test effects from different administrations of the drug.

Doblin said he was surprised that the FDA approved the study. He did not think the **National Institute on Drug Abuse** (NIDA) had the appropriate CBD-rich pot for the study and that would force the FDA to reject it. NIDA controls the one federally legal pot farm in the nation, which is based in Mississippi and provides government-grown pot to a handful of federal patients, as well as researchers approved by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

But if history is any guide, NIDA will ultimately block the FDA-approved study from ever happening, said Doblin. NIDA must approve all research on pot, and their political goal is to ensure it never becomes legal, he said. NIDA states on its website that it believes smoked marijuana is not a medicine despite more than three thousand years of recorded medicinal use.

Doblin said NIDA has repeatedly denied approval of his group's efforts to clinically study the use of cannabis to treat AIDS wasting and migraines — despite repeated FDA approvals. Doblin said the FDA is interested in pursuing cannabis science, but NIDA is not.

"I would like there to be praise for the FDA, they're not doing anything unusual," he said. "But NIDA, the Drug Czar's office, and the **DEA** have bought into prohibition and prohibition doesn't make sense if you put science first."

"The Obama administration has talked a big game about how science should not be impeded by politics," Doblin continued. "He has disappointed us in major ways when it comes to drug-related science."

Dutch phytochemist **Arno Hazekamp**, a director at European cannabis manufacturer **Bedrocan**, has said that modern science is simply not set up to accept whole-plant medicine. The last century of modern medicine has been built upon the so-called "one-molecule-one-target" principle, he has noted.

Conversely, cannabis has more than four hundred psychoactive molecules and interacts with a vital yet barely understood cellular signaling system called the endocannabinoid system — which accounts for its wide variety of reported effects.

Some stronger pot these days definitely can cause anxiety, not lessen it, Doblin notes. And not all PTSD sufferers may have the same reaction to the same pot, he said. But the drug is nontoxic, and has been found to provide energy and lift the mood of depressed PTSD sufferers, he said. It doesn't treat the underlying psychological damage of war, however. "It's more on the level of symptom relief. If they don't use marijuana the next day or next night their symptoms usually come back," Doblin said.

Doblin's group has also been developing Ecstasy-assisted talk therapy for war veterans for about a decade. Few people know that NIDA has the unique authority to stop cannabis research, but it may not prevent research on other psychoactives such as LSD and Ecstasy. The euphoric, empathetic "love" drug Ecstasy allows a vet to revisit traumatic memories and process them without panic and fear overwhelming his mind.

In preparation for an MDMA-talk session, Doblin sees his group stepping shell-shocked vets down off of prescription medications and onto pot — which leaves the system in eight hours, instead of weeks or months for prescription pills. A recent study of patients presenting at Medicann clinics in California found large numbers of patients using pot in lieu of prescription sleep aids and mood adulterants.

But if NIDA rejects the newly approved study, it will be yet another example of the government getting in the way of helping our troops, Doblin said. "There are a large number of people for whom this would work." ●

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

David.Downs@gmail.com

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ECO WATCH

# USING TREES TO CURB POLLUTION

North Oakland's Urban Releaf leads a revitalization of neglected blocks while studying benefits of trees in storm-water management.

By Nate Seltenrich

In a few years' time, 31st Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Market Street will be completely transformed. Instead of a sea of concrete and neglected curbside planting strips, its sidewalks will feature an interconnected series of street-level swales. Instead of a nearly treeless horizon punctuated by power lines and street signs, it will enjoy a growing canopy of young trees. And instead of funneling toxins directly into the nearby Ettie Street Pump Station and out to the bay, the two residential West Oakland blocks will actually remove pollutants from the watershed.

The 31st Street National Demonstration Project is not your average neighborhood cleanup effort. Supported by UC Davis scientists and developed with the assistance of city, state, and national agencies, the innovative project spearheaded by Oakland nonprofit **Urban Releaf** — which since 1999 has planted more than 15,000 trees throughout the city — is a multifaceted endeavor that takes urban greening to the next level. Through an on-site experiment designed by UC Davis water scientist **Qingfu Xiao**, it'll even help quantify the long-recognized but rarely measured ability of trees to filter pollutants from storm-water runoff.

The targeted blocks, located in West Oakland's Hoover neighborhood, pose both a challenge and a unique opportunity. The mixed-race area is an epicenter of crime, poverty, and obesity; asthma rates and water and air pollution are well above average; and the median annual household income hovers near $20,000. Urban Releaf director **Kemba Shakur**, who launched her organization twelve years ago only a few blocks away, said she was motivated by issues of environmental justice to transform the street and eventually hold it up as a model for others like it.

"Poor areas and areas of color are beset by environmental degradation and are the last areas to be remedied," she said. "We've been working on that block for a while, but now we can showcase it as a national project, because it has not been done in any other poor community in the nation. It's really a new avenue on the benefits of trees."

Using an experimental framework developed by Xiao, Oakland civil engineering firm **Hyphae Design Laboratory** has led the way in planning the project and obtaining permits. At the heart of their efforts is a newly devised structural soil that has never been used in street-tree planters, Xiao said. It consists of lava rock and clay loam soil and was engineered with two purposes in mind: first, to provide for maximum water retention and filtration, and second, to allow tree roots considerably more space to grow than they have in typical soil. "What we're doing is creating a model here," said **Brent Buckman** of Hyphae, "to see how it performs versus plopping a tree into native soil."

Tree wells will be cut from the existing concrete to a width of four feet and a length as large as is allowable between driveways, then excavated at least three feet deep to make room for the new soil. Finally, cuts will be made into the concrete curbs themselves at the location of each new swale. These will allow rainwater running down the gutters to flow directly into the tree wells, instead of disappearing into the storm drain at the end of the block. The water will filter down through the engineered soil and eventually be sucked back up through the trees, which will consume phosphates, nitrogen, and other pollutants picked up from the air and street surfaces. The end result is a self-watering landscape that reduces the level of water pollution flowing from the city into the bay.

By March 2012, both blocks should be outfitted with flow-through swales and planted with trees. But the research component kicks off sooner. Measurements of water flow into the street's storm drains have already been taken to establish a baseline level. Within a few weeks, permits and design work should be complete for the new test site between West and Market streets that will house Xiao's experiment.

> "WHAT WE'RE DOING IS CREATING A MODEL HERE," SAID BRENT BUCKMAN OF HYPHAE DESIGN LABORATORY, "TO SEE HOW IT PERFORMS VERSUS PLOPPING A TREE INTO NATIVE SOIL."

The 50- to 100-foot swale comprising four to six individual planters will feature a pump at each end, one designed to push water into the system and one designed to pull it back out. Between them, a flow meter and soil moisture sensors will assess the amount of water being diverted through the swale. Another series of pumps automated to pull water samples from the swale on a regular, timed basis will assist in measuring the quality of the water as it passes through the system. The test site should be complete by next summer and stay in operation for two years; ultimately, the data it provides could help spur further investment in similar efforts on a much larger scale.

The project's budget of $181,000 comes from the **California Department of Water Resources**, the **West Oakland Project Area Committee**, the **City of Oakland Redevelopment Agency**, and others. Using additional funds from the **American Reinvestment and Recovery Act**, Urban Releaf will hire local at-risk youth to assist in community outreach and tree planting.

In the end, the 31st Street National Demonstration Project will incorporate scientific research, social justice, and bioremediation into a single entity on the front lines of urban environmental degradation.

Xiao, who has been working with Urban Releaf since 2004, is so moved by the project that he has opted to contribute some of his free time. "I just think it's the right thing to do." ◆

Nate.Seltenrich@EastBayExpress.com

Hunger striker Veronica Rivas and UC Berkeley Ethnic Studies co-founder Carlos Muñoz Judith Scherr

# NO LOVE FOR ETHNIC STUDIES?

UC Berkeley students are on a hunger strike to protest cuts they say unfairly hurt the Ethnic Studies Department.

By Judith Scherr

Zoila Adalgiza Lara Cea was sprawled on her stomach on a grassy knoll next to the UC Berkeley's chancellor's office last week under a makeshift shelter spray painted with the words, "Stop the Cuts to Ethnic Studies." While she crammed for final exams, others engaged in debate with a passerby on the importance of ethnic studies. Lara Cea and the four other hunger strikers hadn't eaten solid food since April 26 to protest faculty and staff reassignments, layoffs, and reductions in hours in the small UC Berkeley department that grew out of the Third World Strike forty years ago.

The university should value the **Ethnic Studies Department** just as much as the contributions of the engineering department, said ethnic studies major **Cristina Doan**, who supports the hunger strike, but is not fasting due to medical concerns. "People say, 'We need to build bridges,'" she said. "They don't see [the study of] diversity as a necessity. They say, 'People are racist, that's the way it's always going to be.'" Doan says ethnic studies education can change attitudes.

The cuts and reassignments "undermine the mission of who we are," said **Carlos Muñoz**, emeritus professor and one of the department's founders. Muñoz, who supports the student hunger strike, added that the cuts come at a time when people of color have become the majority in California and ethnic studies therefore has become even "more central to UC's mission as a whole."

UC Berkeley spokeswoman **Janet Gilmore** argued that the Ethnic Studies Department had to face cuts just like all the other departments on campus given massive state budget cuts and the university's economic constraints. "All units on campus have worked on this effort," resulting in $20 million in savings, Gilmore wrote in an e-mail. "The size of the savings correlated to the size of the school or unit. The larger schools had larger goals and larger plans. And the smaller schools had smaller targets."

But **Veronica Rivas**, one of the hunger-striking students, argued that the impacts of the cuts are not evenly distributed, given that departments such as law and business receive large private gifts. "Public funds are more crucial to my department," she explained.

The recent cuts and reassignments of the equivalent of 2.5 staff come on top of the retirement of two faculty members who were not replaced, Muñoz said. Doan added that the Ethnic Studies Department is so small that the loss of even one faculty member impacts the entire program. "I look at the class schedule every semester and say, 'I need this class,' and the class is not being offered," she said.

Gilmore pointed out that the university has reduced some staff hours to 90 percent rather than laying people off and has placed or is trying to place other staff in positions elsewhere on the campus. And UC administrators in a May 4 letter to the students said they would add hours for mentorship by reducing faculty teaching loads because students had told them mentorship was important. "The courses that the faculty are relieved of would be replaced by the dean," the letter said.

But the students argue that experts in their fields should continue teaching courses and that shifting faculty to do jobs they're not familiar with doesn't make sense. They further contend that staff that remain in the Ethnic Studies Department with fewer hours will likely leave the university as soon as they can find other full-time employment.

Rivas praised the ethnic studies staff who, she said, go beyond what's normally expected, making sure students feel safe in the impersonal climate of UC Berkeley. "They help me, advise me," she said. "They care about where my education is going. Without them, who will help me?"

Lara-Cea, a third-year student in Native American Studies, likened the reductions and shifting of staff to a car without wheels. "The car's still there, so you can argue that it's functioning," she said. "The motor still runs, everything still works, but it will not move. Without the staff, the car will not move."

Many of the students on strike and their supporters said they came to the Ethnic Studies Department for personal reasons. Born in San Jose to Vietnamese refugee parents, Doan said she grew up in an atmosphere where she was under pressure to assimilate and never learned to speak her parents' language. At school, the other children teased her for being Asian. "I hated the Vietnamese side of myself for so long," she said. "Ethnic studies helped me find the love I have for my identity." She said she hopes to use what she's learning in her classes to empower her community and other ethnic communities.

**Victoria Ayala**, one of the hunger strikers, grew up in Watts in Los Angeles and said she's still working to overcome the deficiencies in the education she received there. Like the others who are fasting, she said she's getting used to not eating, but she's tired and it's hard just to walk across campus or carry a backpack. "I feel like I'm becoming weaker," she said. "But I'm not letting it affect me, because I'm still here and fasting and I'll be here as long as I have to be." ●

"I FEEL LIKE I'M BECOMING WEAKER," SAID VICTORIA AYALA, ONE OF THE HUNGER STRIKERS. "BUT I'M NOT LETTING IT AFFECT ME, BECAUSE I'M STILL HERE AND FASTING AND I'LL BE HERE AS LONG AS I HAVE TO BE."

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# EX-PLANNED PARENTHOOD AFFILIATE GOES BANKRUPT

Golden Gate Community Health, which once served more than 50,000 patients a year, is liquidating its assets.

By John C. Osborn

At its peak, **Planned Parenthood Golden Gate** had clinics in Oakland, Hayward, San Francisco, San Rafael, San Mateo, Redwood City, and Rohnert Park. Each year, the clinics assisted about 54,000 patients, the overwhelming majority of whom had little to no access to affordable medical care. The clinics also provided sex education to another 10,000 people annually, along with abortion services. But then last year, **Planned Parenthood** revoked its association with the clinics amid concerns of financial mismanagement. And now patients of the recently renamed **Golden Gate Community Health** will have an even more difficult time finding adequate health care, because the organization has filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy and is going out of business.

Golden Gate originally planned to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which would have allowed it to reorganize rather than liquidate its assets. But Bank of America and other financial institutions that had lent the clinics millions of dollars and held liens on Golden Gate's property pushed for Chapter 7, said **Andy Porter**, a lawyer who is working with the organization through its bankruptcy. All employees have been let go. "It will be really difficult to reopen," Porter said. "I think it's over."

According to court filings, Golden Gate lists $13.6 million in assets, and $12.6 million in debts, including nearly $10 million owed to financial institutions. The lenders probably will get all of Golden Gate's funds from the planned asset sales, because the organization's property likely will sell for less than its listed value due to the depressed real estate market. The quick liquidation may leave many employees still awaiting compensation with no hope of receiving what they're owed — about $297,000 overall. "I believe the banks will get everything," Porter said. "I would love to see if the real estate sells for enough to allow the employees to get paid. That would be a No. 1 priority."

Still, it's unclear who is owed exactly what because that information was sealed to protect the identities of employees, contracted physicians, and patients due to concerns of possible retaliation against people who either work at or patronize reproductive health clinics. Court documents in the case cited an incident in North Carolina where pro-life activists passed out "wanted" posters with the faces of doctors known to perform abortions. Porter said sealing those types of records has become standard procedure for reproductive health clinics facing bankruptcy. Although Golden Gate clinics specialized in reproductive health, including family planning and women's health services, abortions accounted for only about 2 percent of its services.

The Chapter 7 bankruptcy also raises questions about what will happen to about 600,000 patient records. Patients will be notified by mail that they can pick up their records, but some records have "no-mail" provisions on them, meaning that the only way for patients to discover that they need to get their records is through publicized notices, Porter said. Because of limited storage, all records that are not picked up within one year will be destroyed.

After serving Bay Area residents for 88 years, Golden Gate's demise was a turbulent journey. By 2003, the organization was running large deficits — $3.2 million that year, according to tax filings. But then from 2004 through 2007, Golden Gate revenues increased steadily. However, in 2008, the organization fell back into the red, running a $2.2 million deficit, followed by a $2.8 million deficit in 2009.

Internal dissatisfaction over the way then-CEO **Dian Harrison** was handling the organization's finances helped prompt a group of thirty doctors and clinicians to send a letter to Planned Parenthood expressing concerns in 2008, according to the Bay Citizen. Strife within the organization ultimately led to Harrison's firing at the beginning of 2010 and the termination of her $340,000-a-year contract. However, Harrison then sued Golden Gate for failing to give her the lump sum of $205,000 in severance pay, along with medical benefits promised in her contract. Harrison's suit is one of nine pending legal and administrative actions against Golden Gate, including a US Department of Justice investigation into allegations of civil fraud.

Starting in March 2010, under then-interim CEO **Therese Wilson**'s leadership, Golden Gate underwent a radical restructuring that resulted in a 33 percent reduction in operating costs, but by July financial troubles were mounting to such a degree that Planned Parenthood warned the clinics that they were at risk of losing their affiliation. Then in September, Planned Parenthood revoked its association with the clinics, marking the beginning of the end for Golden Gate.

> "IT WILL BE REALLY DIFFICULT TO REOPEN," SAID ANDY PORTER, A BANKRUPTCY LAWYER WHO IS WORKING WITH GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY HEALTH. "I THINK IT'S OVER. ... I BELIEVE THE BANKS WILL GET EVERYTHING."

By October, the organization started exploring Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and then made one last plea to the community for donations to keep stay afloat — but to no avail. On February 28, Golden Gate closed all of its clinics except for those in San Francisco, which shuttered four days later.

The sudden loss of services was a shock for patients, particularly for 50,000 Alameda County low-income residents who have government-issued health-care cards known as PACT cards. The shuttered clinics also are unwelcome news for 171,430 uninsured county residents, many of whom are young adults and undocumented. However, in recent months, Planned Parenthood has been slowly making its way back into the East Bay to provide services to those affected by the closures.

On April 4, **Planned Parenthood Mar Monte**, which operates in San Mateo County and the South Bay, opened a clinic in Hayward where Golden Gate's old clinic was. At the moment, however, the clinic is seeing patients just two days a week, and services are limited pending permits with the state, said Planned Parenthood Mar Monte spokeswoman **Lupe Rodriguez**. A clinic at **Westminster Community Center** in Hayward is also seeing patients twice a week, and plans are in the works to open a clinic in Oakland by the end of this year.

In addition, **Planned Parenthood Shasta Pacific** clinics in Richmond, El Cerrito, and Walnut Creek have received a flood of calls for service, said spokesman **Adrian Verilli**. At eight clinics in and around the East Bay, Planned Parenthood Shasta Pacific saw 1,300 more patients in March than in February, a 26 percent surge. Where Shasta Pacific clinics used to have an average wait time of one day for scheduling, it has since increased to a week or so. "It was quite a surprise," Verilli said of Golden Gate's closure. "We had no warning. We tried to schedule as many people as we could."

Clinics as far away as San Jose and Mountain View also are now seeing more patients since Golden Gate shut down. "People are definitely trying to find a place to go," Rodriguez said. "We understand there is a huge need for health care."

But the increased demand for services has also come with an increase in resources. Since Golden Gate's demise, donors have poured cash into Planned Parenthood affiliates around the East Bay. In fact, the campaign by social and religious conservatives to defund Planned Parenthood at the national level and in states across the country has ironically infused proponents of Planned Parenthood and women's rights with renewed energy, resulting in 600,000 new supporters since the beginning of the year and large increases in donations, Verilli said. "It's kind of the perfect storm turned perfect opportunity. People are really fired up."

For now, **Alameda County** residents, particularly low-income and uninsured residents who were formerly Golden Gate patients, can contact one of Planned Parenthood's clinics in and around the East Bay, La Clinica in Oakland, Women's Community Clinic in San Francisco, and the Berkeley Free Clinic. "Any time a health care provider has to shut its doors, there's a short-term [health care] access problem we never want to see happen," Verilli noted. ●

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# ARTS & CULTURE

CULTURE SPY

# PANDORA ADDS HUMOR TO ITS GENOME

Oakland's famed maker of personalized radio expands into comedy

By Rachel Swan

Rumors about **Pandora**'s new comedy genome project had been circulating at least since August, when the Oakland-based company began head-hunting trained experts to help set it in motion. But until the feature officially launched on Wednesday, May 4, Pandora kept it tightly under wraps. News outlets didn't get word until it was already up and running.

But founder **Tim Westergren** insists there was never any debate as to whether comedy would be a viable format. "This was something our listeners had been asking us about for a while," he wrote in a recent e-mail, adding that since Pandora receives — and answers — tens of thousands of e-mails each month, he was working with a fairly large sample size. "There was no debate that this was the right thing to do," Westergren added.

The hope, of course, is that Pandora will ultimately do for comedy what it did for music: create a new generation of snobs. Westergren is a trained jazz pianist and Stanford alum who launched the genome project more as a social experiment than a business. (Founded in 2000, the company didn't become profitable until 2009.) The whole idea was to broaden consumer taste via personalized radio stations. Someone with a layman's knowledge of jazz could start a **John Coltrane** station, for instance, and quickly get exposed to the music of **Archie Shepp**, **Art Pepper** or **Sonny Rollins**, all of whom share similar characteristics (in this case, "a leisurely tempo, a tenor sax head, acoustic piano accompaniment, and light drumming").

For the music stations, Pandora keeps a database of more than four hundred possible "song traits," and hires professional musicians to analyze each song. Once analyzed, they become part of the company's complex and intricate algorithm. Pandora users get the pleasure of a customized service that functions, simultaneously, as an educational tool — so long as they accept the premise that taste isn't quite as "individual" as we once thought. It's actually methodical and predictive.

It's supposed to work that way with comedy, too. Westergren broke it down: "Similar to music, we developed a system to predict what listeners will like based on what they're telling us they are looking for with that first artist, track, or genre 'seed,'" he wrote. Then he provided a bullet point list of joke traits identified and vetted by more than one hundred comedians who had worked with Pandora's team. Some were obvious — like the standard blue-collar or gender jokes, absurdist humor, neurotic delivery, twists on logic, or race gags. Others were fairly sophisticated. Take, for example, the "misdirection" category, which Westergren explained thus: "where a comedian sets up a set of expectations, then defies the expectations in some way by twisting the situation for comedic effect." He said it can also be known as "bait and switch." An example might be **Kevin Hart**'s "Situation on My Phone" joke, which starts with a friend confiding in Hart that he found a picture of a dick on his daughter's phone. That leads Hart to wonder how he would discipline his own son, had the son been caught sexting dick photos to little girls. Which leads Hart to decide that it would be a great opportunity for male bonding. ("We small but we big at the same time!")

Westergren's description alone shows just how much rigor went into the formation of the comedy genome. And he makes a fairly convincing argument for the idea that any comedy bit can be divided into a series of attributes, the same way that any song can.

Pandora founder Tim Westergren

Which spooks some consumers. Oakland comedian **Bucky Sinister** said that after listening to his personalized humor stations for four hours, he was still trying to "train" them. "I started it by putting in **Patton Oswalt**. So far it's given me more of the dirty foul-mouthed comics. The edgy ones, I guess you could say," he wrote in an e-mail. Sinister said that after subscribing to the music genome project for years, he still finds glitches in the system. Ideally, you're supposed to narrow the selections by manually "liking" or "disliking" songs as they pop up in the queue. But it doesn't always work.

"I used to play a game called 'Six Degrees of Godsmack,'" Sinister continued. "I would play with another person in another place. We'd ... enter any metal band to Pandora, brand new channel. Then we see how long it takes to get to Godsmack," an archetypal dude-rock band that's sort of like bong water turned into music, he says. "The idea is you're never more than six songs from Godsmack."

So ultimately a computerized algorithm isn't quite the same thing as a human brain. And there are some other features of comedy that make it hard to fit in the music genome template. Since we often listen to music for purely escapist reasons, it's easy to tolerate the same song being played over and over again. Not so with comedy. You may enjoy hearing **Hannibal Buress** discuss testicle surgery one time, and you might even feel compelled to "like" it. That doesn't mean you want the testicle bit kept in rotation. Listening to the same joke even twice can be irritating.

But that's a small price to pay for exposure. Westergren clearly expects a lot of comedy neophytes to take advantage of the free, ad-supported service on Pandora, and to help them he's created "genre" stations that divide comedians into their respective groups. **Chris Rock**, **Daniel Tosh** and **Aziz Ansari** qualify as "today's comedy." **Wanda Sykes**, **Don Rickles** and **Richard Pryor** are "icons." **David Cross** and **Katt Williams** are "raw comedy." **Frank Caliendo** and **Larry the Cable Guy** are "working class." Add to that musical comedy, PG comedy, urban comedy, golden oldies comedy, and political comedy.

That means Pandora could help generate a whole new market for comedy, which is heartening news for the artists it features. So thought **Kevin Avery**, a San Jose-raised comedian who defected to Los Angeles a couple years ago. "I think it's a helpful any time you put comedy in a place where people are already searching for content," Avery said. He was bemused to hear his "attributes," as determined by the genome project: an assured delivery, an interest in technology, an equally abiding interest in romantic relationships, a tendency for bizarre "subject exploration," and "shouting." ●

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# EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

## Independence Day

It's always a party when the Oakland Indie Awards honor homegrown businesses

Most of us have seen enough **Oakland Grown** stickers around town to be casually familiar with the Buy Local movement. We avoid big box stores, shop at locally owned and operated businesses when we can, and have some sense, at least abstractly, of how funneling our money into homegrown businesses can benefit local economic development.

But most of us aren't like **Erin Kilmer-Neel**, who's so passionate about Buy Local that she has essentially devoted her professional life to spreading its gospel. Kilmer-Neel says she originally came around to the concept while studying urban planning in graduate school several years ago. "I became obsessive about it when I came to recognize the economic multiplier effect of supporting local businesses," she said. "I really started thinking about how we as individuals are making decisions every day with our dollar whether or not we know it." She ended up writing her thesis on the subject and, after graduation, moving to Oakland to launch a web site that would put a buy-local spin on the wedding registry business. "There's so much money in the wedding industry, but it all goes to Crate and Barrel and Macy's," Kilmer-Neel said. "I wanted to give people an opportunity to buy gifts from local businesses and artists." The idea evolved into **Oakland Unwrapped**, a general-purpose web store offering various goods made locally.

Sunland Walker Photography

A vendor from last year's Indie Awards.

On top of that, as a program officer for the One PacificCoast Foundation and in partnership with One PacificCoast Bank and several other partners (including the *Express*), for the last five years she has hosted the **Oakland Indie Awards**, which aims to honor local independent businesses. "The idea behind it is to remind the community of the ways in which supporting locally owned independent businesses and artists supports and enriches the community," Kilmer-Neel said. She and the rest of the Indie Awards crew, comprising local business, arts, and community leaders, accept nominations for local businesses that are doing good in various ways — the Ripple Effect award, for example, goes to a local business or artist that supports other Oakland businesses by buying his supplies locally, while the Socially Responsible Rock Star award, new this year, goes to a local entity that's engaged in community service and enrichment activities.

Despite the activist angle of her work, Kilmer-Neel promises that the awards — which go down Friday, May 13, at the **Kaiser Center** (300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland) — will be less a self-serious ceremony than a straight-up celebration of Oakland and its businesses. On hand will be a photo booth, crafts, clothing, and gifts for sale from vendors like Oakland Grown, **Pro Arts**, and Oakland Unwrapped; a candy bar and food and drink — all local, of course, from vendors like **Tamale Girl**, **Jin Lin**, **Trattoria Laurelinos**, and more. Members of the **Oakland Outlaws** roller derby team will serve cupcakes on roller skates, and even the music will be totally local, with **DJ Platurn** spinning an Oakland bands-only playlist. "We want to get people really excited and proud to be part of Oakland. What I hope people take away from this is that there is a ton of cool things in Oakland to spend their money on," Kilmer-Neel said. "When you see all the amazing, cool things people are doing here, it makes it easy to get excited." 6-10 p.m., $10. OaklandIndieAwards.com.

— *Ellen Cushing*

## ATTRACTIONS

**A Walk through the Garden of Old Roses** Horticulturist Peter [illegible] leads an international tour through the rose garden. Sat., May 14, 10 a.m.-noon. $15-$20. University of California Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley, 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu.

## FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

**Himalayan Fair** Annual, ever-popular celebration of Indian, Nepalese, Pakistani, and Himalayan culture with live music, [illegible] performances, and food [illegible] and crafts for sale. Sat., May 14, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun., May 15, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., free. Live Oak Park, 1301 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-6700. [illegible]

**[illegible] TelegraphFest** With live music, cultural performances, kids' activities, food for sale, and more. Sat., May 14, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., free. Telegraph Ave. between 23rd and 27th Streets, Oakland.

**Oakland Greek Festival** Celebration of all things Hellenic, with traditional dance and Greek performances, crafts and food for sale, cooking and dance workshops, historical presentations, and more. May 13-15, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. $6 per day. Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension, 4700 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. 510-531-3400. AscensionCathedral.org.

**Oakland Heritage Alliance 2011 Partners in Preservation Awards Ceremony** Celebration honoring individuals, organizations, projects, and [illegible] whose work demonstrates a commitment to excellence in historic preservation. Thu., May 12, 7:30 p.m. $10-$15. Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]-1173.

**Oakland Indie Awards** Best-of-Oakland awards ceremony celebrating local businesses, with food and drink, art benefit, presentation, art demonstrations, a [illegible] booth, and more. Fri., May 13, 6 p.m. $10. Oakland Kaiser Center, 300 Lakeside Dr., Oakland.

**Wavy Gravy's 75th Birthday Boogie** Featuring performances by Bob Weir and Mickey Hart, performing solo and together with Steve Kimock, Mark Karan, Henry Kaiser, Jeff Chimenti, John Molo, Pete Sears, [illegible] and Robin Sylvester. All proceeds benefit the Seva Foundation, which works to prevent blindness in the developing world. Sat., May 14, 7 p.m. $45. Craneway Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. Craneway.com.

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

**African American [illegible]** Sat., May 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. $15 donation. Samuel Merritt University Health Education Center, 400 Hawthorne Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible], SamuelMerritt.edu.

## KIDS

**Celebrating [illegible] Day** Daylong celebration of all things elephant, with elephant information booths, [illegible], performances by Circus [illegible], an animal-free circus, at noon and 2 p.m. All [illegible] go to the Amboseli Elephant Research Project. Sat., May 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., free with zoo [illegible] (free-$12.50). Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525, OaklandZoo.org.

**Oliver Chin** Reading from his children's book, *The Year of the Rabbit: Tales from the Chinese Zodiac*. Sun., May 15, 2 p.m., free. Eastwind Books of Berkeley, 2066 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2350. EWBB.com.

**Peralta Elementary [illegible] Spring Festival "Peralta in Bloom"** With a petting zoo, face-painting, crafts, spin-art, a bounce house, live music, a cake walk, [illegible], and more. Sat., May 14, 12-4 p.m., free. Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd Street, Oakland.

**Piedmont Avenue Elementary School Family Spring Carnival** With a [illegible] house, food for sale, a rock wall, a free book exchange, a silent auction, and more. Proceeds benefit the school. Sat.,

# PICKS

## Full Moon Paddle

Get cozy with your date in a tandem sit-on-top sea kayak on the bay as you watch the sun set beyond the Golden Gate Bridge and the full moon rise above the East Bay hills. Adventurous? Check. Romantic? Check. What more could you ask for on a weeknight? Led by **UC Aquatic Center** staff, the popular **Full Moon Paddle** excursion departs the **Berkeley Marina** (124 University Ave., Berkeley) on Tuesday, May 17, at 7 p.m. and returns three hours later. Previous paddling experience is recommended, but the only official prerequisite is the ability to swim. Bring layered clothing, water, and a snack. If you can't make it this month, never fear: June, July, and August dates are scheduled, too. $35-$45 per person. 510-642-8400 or RecSports.Berkeley.edu — *Nate Seltenrich*

## Bike-In Movie Night

Why watch a movie at the local megaplex when you could watch one outside, under the stars, with cold, cold pints in your hand, and for a good cause? Scoot on over to **Trumer Brauerei** (1404 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Friday, May 13, for **a bike-in movie night** featuring brewery tours, free popcorn, Trumer tastings, a raffle, and screenings of the appropriately thematic bike-culture short *Stroppertown* and feature-length doc *With My Own Two Wheels*, plus *The Solution*, which recently won the *Express* 24 Hour Film Festival. All proceeds go to the **East Bay Bike Coalition.** 7:30 p.m. $5. Bring a chair, blankets, and warm layers, and an FM radio. Trumer-International.com — *Ellen Cushing*

## Zab Fest

If there are two things the Bay Area loves, it's food and festivals — so it should be no surprise that any combination of the two enjoys unparalleled popularity. In recent years we've devoted entire celebrations to salmon, pork, tomatoes, and food-truck fare, to name a few. And now behold **Zab Fest**, during which Alameda's **Cera Una Volta** (1492 Park St.) devotes two full days to the frothy, eggy, custardy Italian wonder that is zabaglione — said to date back to the 16th century and Saint Pasquale de Baylon, rumored to promote virility, known definitely to be delicious. The second-annual event includes an art reception, live music, a dinner-theater musical performance, a zabaglione-making contest, and much more. Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15. Admission is free. See web site for full details and schedule. CeraUnaVolta.us — *E.C.*

May 14, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Piedmont Avenue School, 4314 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-879-1400.

**Town Berkeley Board Meeting** Second Thursday of every month, 4:15-5:15 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Main [illegible], 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134. OaklandLibrary.org.

**[illegible]** Intimate, family-friendly show from The Amazing Bubble Man. Sundays, 11 a.m. Continues through July 31. $8-$11. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-6893. [illegible]

## LGBT

**East Bay Bi-Friendly Meeting** Look for the "Bi Friendly" sign. [illegible] Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. Au Coquelet Cafe, 2000 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-0433.

## SALES, PROMOTIONS, & FUNDRAISERS

**[illegible] and Stars Fundraiser** Come and the cafe any time on [illegible] with a copy of the flyer (download at www.[illegible]) and 10 percent of your meal will be donated to the House Rabbit Society. Through May 17. [illegible] Saturn Cafe, 2175 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-848-8587. SaturnCafe.com.

**Friends of Montclair Library Spring Book Sale** Thousands of kids' and adult books, in various genres for sale, most of which for $1-$5. Proceeds benefit the Montclair branch of the Oakland Public Library. Sat., May 14, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Oakland Public Library, Montclair Branch, 1687 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-7810. OaklandLibrary.org.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

**Bike Church 3rd Anniversary and [illegible] Party** The third anniversary of Bike Church, a Sunday morning gathering of cyclists and neighbors that promotes community and bicycle riding. Featuring music by [illegible], and the Legendary and the Dreamers, plus refreshments by [illegible], on-site screen-printing, and a [illegible] release by Oakland's [illegible] Shop. All proceeds from on-site screen-printing to benefit the [illegible] Center's Soul of the City Campaign. Sun., May 15, 1-5 p.m. Free. Manifesto Bicycles, 420 40th Street, Oakland.

**Dimension Salon** [illegible] range of [illegible], including staples, educa-

[illegible], prairie laughter, and whatever is genuine. Info: 510-808-3500. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. [illegible] Community Center of the East Bay, 1404 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-848-0237. JCCEB.org.

**Hosting Liberty** Political discussion group. Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m.; third and [illegible] Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; first Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

**Not Your Mother's Second Party** With food, live entertainment and garden-fresh cocktails [illegible] by folks from St. George's Spirits. Proceeds go toward the Oakland Point Collaborative. To buy tickets see APCollaborative.org. Tue., May 17, 6-8:30 p.m. $75. Ploughshares Nursery, 2701 Main St., Alameda. 510-755-8100. PloughsharesNursery.com.

**Older People United** For people over 75. Fourth and second Tuesday of every month, 1:30 p.m., and Berkeley Gray Panthers Office, 3403 Addison St., Tuesday. 510-548-9696.

**Pub Quiz** Teams of two to five people compete for [illegible]. Hosted by [illegible] and Christa. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-10 p.m. Free. The Missouri Lounge, 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2080. TheMissouriLounge.com.

**Rhythmix Bingo** Mz. Entertainment and the Yay Girls host an evening of music, [illegible], other live entertainment, and, of course, bingo, with cash prizes. Second Thursday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $20. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

## SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

**[illegible] Softball** Saturdays, noon, free. Montclair Park, 6300 Moraga Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks_Default.asp.

**Bike to Work Day** Annual celebration of sustainable transportation, with [illegible] energizer stations, bike-parts and activities throughout the Bay Area; see 511.org for full details. Thu., May 12, free. East Bay, various locations. Emeryville

**Bike Tours of Oakland** Tours of [illegible] parts of Oakland through downtown, Oakland, the Port of Oakland, West Oakland, or Lake Merritt. Meet at 14th Street entrance [illegible] 10 a.m. Reservations preferred: [illegible] or 510-238-3514. Third Sunday of every month, 10 a.m., free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

**Drop-In Women's [illegible]** Fun, friendly small-sided games with four-foot-by-three-foot goals. Please bring cleats, shin guards and dark and light shirts. Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m. Continues through Sept. 15. $5 suggested donation. [illegible] View Field, 980 [illegible] St., Albany.

**Full Moon Paddle** Berkeley-sponsored excursion leads participants beyond the Golden Gate [illegible] to watch the sun set and the full moon rise above the East Bay hills. Previous paddling experience recommended, swimming ability required. [illegible] Tue., May 17, 7 p.m.; Wed., May 18, 7 p.m.; Thu., May 19, 7 p.m. $35-$45. [illegible] Aquatic Center, 122 University Ave., Berkeley.

**Midnight [illegible]** [illegible] Saturday of every month, 11:45 p.m., free. [illegible]

**Tilden Tough [illegible]** [illegible] in Tilden Park. Race fee: [illegible] T-Shirt for all finishers and medals and certificates for top 3 finishers in 10-year age divisions (men and women). Limited to 300 runners; register @ [illegible]. Sun., May 15, 8-10 a.m., $35-$65. Tilden Park, Inspiration Point, [illegible] Canyon Road, Berkeley.

**Windsurfing Oakland** Saturdays, 12:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Sundays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free for members ($75 for three months). Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6740. [illegible]

## SPORTS SPECTATOR

**Oakland A's vs. [illegible]** Wed., May 18, 7:05 p.m.; Thu., May 19, 12:35 p.m. $3-$200. Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland.

**Oakland A's vs. Chicago White Sox** Fri., May 13, 7:05 p.m.; Sat., May 14, 1:05 p.m.; Sun., May 15, 1:05 p.m. $2-$200. Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland.

**Oakland A's vs. LA Angels** May 16-17, 7:05 p.m. $3-$200. Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland.

*Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.*

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# MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Jean Shifflet's *A Handful of Stardust for You*

## Slow Food

### Three artists go organic

If postmodernism's embrace of the socio-political realm restored relevance to art — remember Philip Guston scoffing at "adjusting a red to a blue" during Vietnam? — it also delivered a psychological whammy. Proclaiming the Death of the Author and the impossibility of meaning, creativity and individuality, it negated with its authoritarian right hand the freedoms granted by its libertarian left. Whatever you do does not matter. The result of this schizophrenia was a hall-of-mirrors aesthetic that supposedly assailed godless "late capitalism" but could still yield marketable, collectible status commodities.

Not all artists take the art-simulacra bait, however. Like Dr. Johnson kicking the stone to prove its existence, they find meaning in materials, imbuing matter with life; some even see art making as a spiritual practice. **Claudia Marseille**, **Jean Shifflet**, and **Ellen Vogel**, three graduates of John F. Kennedy University's Arts and Consciousness program, make the case for their alma mater's new-age/old school values in ***Odyssey of Transformation: A Quest for the Genuine***. Marseille paints "an interior terrain" populated by memory and perception. In "The Journey Home," "Foreign Lands," "I Can't Return," and "A Bit of Pink," she creates richly textured abstractions in translucent encaustic that evoke geology, archaeology and anthropology — apt allusions for an artist who went on digs in her youth and sees culture as embodied psychology. The works also contain hints of her travels to "the souks, the spice markets, old peeling stucco walls, fabrics ... of past civilizations, and the multicolored reflections found in ponds and lakes" in Mexico, India, and Morocco.

Shifflet similarly explores "time, fleeting moments of perception, and reflections of the natural world." Her labor-intensive layered oils like "A Handful of Stardust for You," "Sky Dream Reverie," "In the Midst," "Waves of Spring," "A Cluster of Moments," and "Lightly Adrift" present watery landscapes aflow with stylized clouds and flowers, sparkling ripples, and "bubbles" of optical flare that could be located on the water, above or below it, or in the viewer's mind-eye complex. While Marseille suggests the passage of time, Shifflet hints at some eternal landscape attainable only through poetic reflection. Vogel, a sculptor, returned to painting for this show with an experimental spirit, pouring and spraying paint onto tissue paper laid on the floor, adding salt and wax, and layering the "natural monochromatic fields" that resulted with additional stitching, peeling, and gluing. Her tall, tent-like installation, perhaps a benign version of Richard Serra's threatening "House of Cards," refers to the natural world of yellow soil, blue sky, and green life. *Odyssey* runs through May 22 at **John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery** (2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley). 510-649-0499 or JFKU.edu.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

## ART GALLERIES

**Albatross Pub. Paintings by [illegible]** Postmodern landscape paintings. Through July 30. Free. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.

**Art House Gallery & Cultural Center. Group Show: BCC Digital Arts Club** With work by more than forty members of Berkeley City College's Digital Arts Club. Through June 15. 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.

**Albatross Pub. Paintings by [illegible]** Postmodern landscape paintings. Through July 30. Free. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com.

**Berkeley Art Center. Light/Dark** Work by members of the California Society of Printmakers, selected by Enrique Chagoya. Through May 29. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

**Berkeley City College. [illegible]** Juried student art show with work, digital and traditional media. Through Aug. 24. 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2931. Peralta.edu.

**Art House Gallery & Cultural Center. Group Show: BCC Digital Arts Club** With work by more than forty members of Berkeley City College's Digital Arts Club. Through June 15. 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.

**Berkeley Art Center. Light/Dark** Work by members of the California Society of Printmakers, selected by Enrique Chagoya. Through May 29. 1275 Walnut St. (in Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

**Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch. Then & Now** Experimental tapestry paintings by [illegible]. Through June 18. Free. **Berkeley Public Library 30th Annual Quilt Show** Through June 5. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

**Berkeley City College. [illegible]** Juried student art show with work, digital and traditional media. Through Aug. 24. 2050 Center St., Berkeley. 510-981-2931. Peralta.edu.

**Berkeley Shambhala Center. The Sacred Gift: Tradition and Modernity in the Spiritual Art of Nepal** Traditional and contemporary Nepalese art. Through May 15. Free. 2288 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-841-3242.

**Frank Bette Center for the Arts. Alameda on Display** Group art show featuring photographs of Alameda taken by local amateur and professional photographers. Through May 28. Free. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

**Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch. Then & Now** Experimental tapestry paintings by [illegible]. Through June 18. Free. **Berkeley Public Library 30th Annual Quilt Show** Through June 5. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

**Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. [illegible]** Through May 13. 480 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

**Berkeley Shambhala Center. The Sacred Gift: Tradition and Modernity in the Spiritual Art of Nepal** Traditional and contemporary Nepalese art. Through May 15. Free. 2288 Fulton St., Berkeley. 510-841-3242.

**Frank Bette Center for the Arts. Alameda on Display** Group art show featuring photographs of Alameda taken by local amateur and professional photographers. Through May 28. Free. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

**Expressions Gallery. [illegible] Art** Work in various media by local artists. Through June 10. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

**Chandra Cerrito Contemporary. [illegible]** Through May 13. 480 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

**Expressions Gallery. [illegible] Art** Work in various media by local artists. Through June 10. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

**Float. Visible Worlds Apart** Work by [illegible] and Chris [illegible]. Through June 4. Free. **[illegible]** Paintings by [illegible] and sculpture by [illegible]. Through June 4. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland. 510-535-1702. TheFloatCenter.com.

**Johansson Projects. From The Ashes [illegible]** [illegible]

# PICKS

## Byron Spicer

A detail from Byron Spicer's "Kahlifornia Bling."

DeWitt Cheng

Chuck Close and Georges Seurat may come to mind when you see **Byron Spicer**'s mosaic paintings, but while those artists employ swirls or tiny dots to transform the everyday into the monumental, Spicer composes his gridded images from small square paintings on paper, both figurative and abstract, aiming at a Chuck Jones-like, *Looney Tunes* humor. Subject matter like a colossal sculpted head ("Easter Island"), a cartoony toy alligator ("Under the Radar"), and a young Arnold Schwarzenegger strutting his manly stuff ("Kahlifornia Bling" and "Total Recall") coalesces from squiggles and doodles. His titles are similarly jocular: A circular ring is entitled "Oh" and a painting comprised of multiplying images is entitled "Treasure Hunt." Spicer's shapes seep across the boundaries, so surfaces and depths play against each other or dance to a merry melody. *Byron Spicer* runs through June 21 at **Latham Square** (1611 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 510-763-4580 or ProArtsGallery.org. *— DeWitt Cheng*

drawings, scratchboard illustrations, and digital imagery by Homer Flynn, a designer for the music, video and performance group The Residents. Through June 17. Tue. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-9140, JohansenProjects.com.

**Star Gallery: Worlds Apart** Work by Addison Dethaye and Chris Palcucher. Through June 4. Tue. **Worlds Apart** Paintings by Patrick Burgess and sculpture by Addison Dethaye. Through June 4. 1691 Calcot Pl., Oakland, 510-535-1702, TheFloatCenter.com.

**John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery: Odyssey of Transformation: A Quest for the Beloved** Work by Claudia Marseille, Jenn Steffan, and Ellen Vogel. Through May 21. Tue. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-0499, JFKU.edu/gallery.

**Johansen Projects: Slow the Balloons** LP cover production art, promotional photos, drawings, scratchboard illustrations, and digital imagery by Homer Flynn, a designer for the music, video and performance group The Residents. Through June 17. Tue. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-9140, JohansenProjects.com.

**Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter: Berkeley Fine** Paintings "celebrating canine and human access to the East Bay Regional Parks." Through May 27. 101 8th St., Oakland, 510-464-7700, www.mtc.ca.gov.

**John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery: Odyssey of Transformation: A Quest for the Beloved** Work by Claudia Marseille, Jenn Steffan, and Ellen Vogel. Through May 21. Tue. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-0499, JFKU.edu/gallery.

**Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter: Berkeley Fine** Paintings "celebrating canine and human access to the East Bay Regional Parks." Through May 27. 101 8th St., Oakland, 510-464-7700, www.mtc.ca.gov.

**Mercury 20 Gallery: Mercury Multiples. Artist's Editions** Artist's Multiples by Charlie Milgrim, Kathleen King, P.K. Fessel, and others. Through Nov. 20. **On the Precipice** Sculpture, installation and drawing by Charlie Milgrim. Through May 28. **The Gyre** Room-sized "kinetic installation" by Kathleen King, Dave Maestas, and Laura von Daniel. Through May 28. 475 25th St., Oakland, 510-484-7786, MercuryTwenty.com.

**Mercury 20 Gallery: Mercury Multiples. Artist's Editions** Artist's Multiples by Charlie Milgrim, Kathleen King, P.K. Fessel, and others. Through Nov. 20. **On the Precipice** Sculpture, installation and drawing by Charlie Milgrim. Through May 28. **The Gyre** Room-sized "kinetic installation" by Kathleen King, Dave Maestas, and Laura von Daniel. Through May 28. 475 25th St., Oakland, 510-484-7786, MercuryTwenty.com.

**Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts: Looking Past Seeing Through** Paintings by Paul Alexander, David Young Allen, Lily Fenichel, Harry Alexander and others. Through June 18. 1747 Solano Ave., Berkeley.

**Mythos Fine Art & Artifacts: Looking Past Seeing Through** Paintings by Paul Alexander, David Young Allen, Lily Fenichel, Harry Alexander and others. Through June 18. 1747 Solano Ave., Berkeley.

**NIAD Art Center: Life of the Modern Comer: Artworks Falls Upon Us** Work in various media by more than the studio artists. Through June 3. 551 23rd St., Richmond, 510-620-0290, NIADart.org.

**NIAD Art Center: Life of the World to Come: Darkness Falls Upon Us** Work in various media by more than ten artists. Through June 3. 551 23rd St., Richmond, 510-620-0290, NIADart.org.

**University Creativity Center: Oracle** Through May 14. **Oracle** Exhibition of work by various artists "expressing the prophetic inner voice." Through May 14. 447 25th St., Oakland.

**Oakopolis Creativity Center: Oracle** Through May 14. **Oracle** Exhibition of work by various artists "expressing the prophetic inner voice." Through May 14. 447 25th St., Oakland.

**Pictorial Gallery: The Secret Life of Balloons** Photography by Doug Burgess. Through June 6. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley.

**Pictorial Gallery: The Secret Life of Balloons** Photography by Doug Burgess. Through June 6. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley.

**Richmond Art Center: Beyond Tradition: Art Legacies at the Richmond Art Center** With work by various artists from the center's 75-year run. Through June 10. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond, 510-620-6772, TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

**Richmond Art Center: Beyond Tradition: Art Legacies at the Richmond Art Center** With work by various artists from the center's 75-year run. Through June 10. 2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond, 510-620-6772, TheRichmondArtCenter.org.

**Royal NoneSuch Gallery: Showcase** Work in various media by Sofia Shagoe, Michael Koehle, Matthew Gottschalk, Teresa Park, and others. Through May 28. 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 415-690-3940, RoyalNonesuchGallery.com.

**Royal NoneSuch Gallery: Showcase** Work in various media by Sofia Shagoe, Michael Koehle, Matthew Gottschalk, Teresa Park, and others. Through May 28. 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 415-690-3940, RoyalNonesuchGallery.com.

**San Pablo Art Gallery: Small Pictures** Works by California College of the Arts alumni, including Steven Rawlik, Chandra Cerrito, Jan Dodge, Tom Ewing, Alisa Golden, Carole Jeung, Sam Perry, Eileen Starr, Addison Rogers, and Eileen Starr Moderhacher. May 14-June 18. Wed.-Sat. 13830 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-836-2660, CI.San-Pablo.ca.us.

**San Pablo Art Gallery: Small Pictures** Works by California College of the Arts alumni, including Steven Rawlik, Chandra Cerrito, Jan Dodge, Tom Ewing, Alisa Golden, Carole Jeung, Sam Perry, Eileen Starr, Addison Rogers, and Eileen Starr Moderhacher. May 14-June 18. Wed.-Sat. 13830 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-836-2660, CI.San-Pablo.ca.us.

**Slate Contemporary Art and Design Gallery: Intermission: Five Bay Area Painters** Work by including David Alpper, Lisa Fernald Barker, Joanne Fox, Carol Lebowitz, and Anne Subercaseaux. Through June 18. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4085.

**Slate Contemporary Art and Design Gallery: Intermission: Five Bay Area Painters** Work by including David Alpper, Lisa Fernald Barker, Joanne Fox, Carol Lebowitz, and Anne Subercaseaux. Through June 18. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4085.

**Sun Gallery: Transformations** Collage and assemblage by artists including Clint Imboden, Leslie Grandle, Susan Brady, Ron Gipland, and Ken Ashburner. Through May 28. 1015 E St., Hayward, 510-581-4050, www.sungallery.org.

**Sun Gallery: Transformations** Collage and assemblage by artists including Clint Imboden, Leslie Grandle, Susan Brady, Ron Gipland, and Ken Ashburner. Through May 28. 1015 E St., Hayward, 510-581-4050, www.sungallery.org.

**Townsend Center: Here and Now** Paintings by Matthew Mullins. Through May 13. 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-643-9670, TownsendCenter.berkeley.edu.

**Townsend Center: Here and Now** Paintings by Matthew Mullins. Through May 13. 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-643-9670, TownsendCenter.berkeley.edu.

**A Store for Keeping Warm: Photography by Christopher Stevenson** Stevenson photography. Through June 8. Tue. 6020 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, StoreforKeepingWarm.com.

**A Store for Keeping Warm: Photography by Christopher Stevenson** Stevenson photography. Through June 8. Tue. 6020 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, StoreforKeepingWarm.com.

**Swarm Gallery: Spring Showcase** New, spring-themed work in various media by Elisa Bongiovk, Erin Natalie Cartwright, Walter James Mansfield, Cyrus Tilton, Bryson Fred, Luke Heinbigner, and Max Marks. Through June 18. Wed. 560 2nd St., Oakland.

**Swarm Gallery: Spring Showcase** New, spring-themed work in various media by Elisa Bongiovk, Erin Natalie Cartwright, Walter James Mansfield, Cyrus Tilton, Bryson Fred, Luke Heinbigner, and Max Marks. Through June 18. Wed. 560 2nd St., Oakland.

**We Artspace: Expectoler** Outdoor paintings and drawings by Erik Parra. Through May 14. 788 48th St., Oakland, 415-397-8560, WeArtSpace.com.

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# THEATER & DANCE

## COMEDY

**[illegible]** with local hosts, comics by Christopher Higgins and featuring DJ Ardit [illegible] Tuesdays, 7 p.m. free. The New Parish, 579 18th St., Oakland. TheNewParish.com.

**The Punchline** Featuring local comics [illegible] [illegible], Becky Silverman, and Chris Cosmo, with rotating guests. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $5. The Front Room, 2700 Mission St., San Francisco, 415-[illegible]. [illegible].com.

**Comedy Breaks: Candy Rollin' Audi comics.** Sat., May 14, 8:30 p.m., $15-$30. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.

**The Comedy Grab Bag** With Kaanee professional and amateur Alisten doing 5-to 10-minute sets. Thursdays, 7:30-9 p.m., $5, plus two-item minimum. Burgie's Comedy Lounge, 8513 Regional St., Dublin, 925-[illegible]. BurgiesComedy.com.

**Comedy Night** Hosted by Tony Sparks. Thursdays, 7 p.m. free. Brainwash Cafe, 1122 Folsom St., San Francisco, 415-861-3663, Brainwash.com.

**Comedy Road** comics by Winky the Rock God with rotating acts. Mondays, 8 p.m., [illegible] Rock Room, 406 Clement St., San Francisco, 415-387-6344, RockitRoom.com.

**Earthquake** Fri., May 13, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., Sat., May 14, 7 & 9:30 p.m., Sun., May 15, 7 p.m. $15-$35, plus two-item minimum. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800, tommyts.com.

**[illegible]** Sign-ups at 8:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Fourth and Second Friday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m., free. Woody's Cafe, 1841 Park Blvd., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. WoodysCafe.com/[illegible].

**Magic & Mirth** With Big Al Catalo & Friends bringing you an intimate [illegible] performance of magic and comedy events. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $20. [illegible] Theater, Stage 250, San Francisco, 415-646-0776.

**Mango & Betty Mondays** Weekly comedy and variety showcase, featuring a rotating cast of comedians and hosted by local comedian Mega Gomez. Mondays, 8 p.m., $10. The Marsh, Comedy at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.

**[illegible]** Sat., May 14, 1 p.m. Sun., May 15, 1 p.m., Mon., May 16, 7 p.m., Wed., May 18, 7 p.m., Thu., May 19, 7 p.m., Fri., May 20, 1 & 4 p.m., Sat., May 21, 1 & 4 p.m., $15-$34, plus [illegible]. Tommy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800. TommyTs.com.

**Oakland Comedy Slam and Open Mic** Hosted by Nazaan & [illegible] Jackson, with [illegible]. Second Thursday of every month, 8 p.m. $7-$10. Club [illegible], 135 12th St., Oakland, 510-[illegible].

**[illegible]** Featuring [illegible] Abarbe and others. [illegible] by Joe [illegible] Thu., May 12, 8 p.m., $6, May 13, 8 & 10 p.m., Sat., May 14, 8 & 10 p.m., $10. [illegible] Jam House, One Broadway, Oakland, [illegible].com.

**Saturday Night Comedy with Ann Randolph, Brian [illegible], and Johnny Steele** Featuring a rotating lineup of other performers. Saturdays, 8 p.m. $15-$35 sliding scale, $50 reserved seats. The Marsh, Comedy at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.

**SF Comedy Showcase** Sundays, 8 p.m. $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco, 415-397-4337. SFPunchlineComedyClub.com.

## LIVE VARIETY

**Dr. Kennedy's East Bay** Burlesque life drawing [illegible], featuring the Cos-Cannibals. Second Saturday of every month, 4-8 p.m. $10-$12. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

## THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

**[illegible]** World premiere dark family and relationship comedy. Written by Steve Yockey; directed by Desdemona Chiang; produced by Impact Theatre, and starring Marissa Keltie, Timothy Redmond, and Beth Thompson. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through June 11. $12-$20. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

**[illegible]: Two Tales of a [illegible] Player** One-man show by Oakland native [illegible] Reed. Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 7 p.m. Continues through May 29. $20-$35 sliding scale. Reserved seating $50. The Marsh, Comedy at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.

**Three Sisters** Sarah Ruhl's adaptation of the family drama by Anton Chekhov. Directed by Les Waters and starring David [illegible], James Carpenter, Richard Farrell, Cobie Sterling, Emily Nilsens, Bruce McKenzie, and Alex Moggridge. With [illegible], discussions and other special events. Visit web site for full schedule of performances. Tuesdays-Sundays. Continues through May 22. $14.50-$73. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

**The Cripple of Inishmaan** Dark comedy about a small Irish town rocked into chaos when a documentary filmmaker arrives to visit. Written by Martin McDonagh. Directed by Carry Hynes, and starring Aisling Murphy and Clare Dunne. Tuesdays-Sundays, 8 p.m. Continues through May 14. $50. Zellerbach Playhouse, 2430 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-9988. CalPerfs.Berkeley.edu.

**Not a Genuine Black Man** One-man show by Brian Copeland. Thursdays. Continues through June 30. $20-35 Sliding Scale or $50 Reserved Seat. The Marsh, Comedy at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-644-4948. TheMarsh.org.

**Passion Play** West Coast premiere of the critically acclaimed drama. Written by Sara Ruhl; directed by Jon Wai-keung Lowe; produced by the Actor's Ensemble of Berkeley. Fridays, Saturdays, 7 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Continues through May 15. $12-$18. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-5580.

**Pippin** The beloved fairy-tale musical performed by youth and teen directed to the Berkeley Playhouse Conservatory. Directed by Kimberly Dooley, with musical direction by Jonathan Fadner. Sat., May 14, 2 & 7 p.m., Sun., May 15, 12 & 6 p.m., $10-$20. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org. ●

Savage Jazz.

# PICKS

## Napoles Ballet and Savage Jazz

When choreographers with different styles get together, the result can be as entertaining as it is intriguing. That's the impetus behind *GENDER*, shared by Oakland's much admired **Savage Jazz Dance Company** and **Napoles Ballet**, a young San Francisco contemporary ballet company founded by Cuban choreographer Luis Napoles. Both he and Reginald Ray-Savage are ambitious, prolific and constantly seeking new directions in dance. For this show, the two choreographers put together a smorgasbord of premieres and repertory pieces with something for everyone in *Recover*, Napoles's *Louisiane*, set in 1950s Cuba, abstract *Resonate*, narrative *Rumba*, and Savage works danced to Max Roach, John Coltrane, Alarm Will Sound, and Stereolab. All that and more is on the bill when *GENDER* comes to **Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts** (1428 Alice St., Oakland) Thursday through Saturday, May 12-14, 8 p.m., $15-$25, 1-800-838-3006 or NapolesBallet.org. — *Claudia Bauer*

## Three Sisters

Playwright Sarah Ruhl may be known for odd, jagged storylines and elliptical language. But given the chance to adapt a well-known canonical play by **Anton Chekhov**, she made surprisingly few adulterations. Using a translation by **Elise Thoron** as her point of departure, Ruhl kept the plot of Chekhov's ***Three Sisters*** largely intact, though she endeavored to make the language more colloquial and less mannered. She injected enough humor into the first act to render it a lighthearted comedy, which makes the tragedy of the second half seem all the more serious and grave. And she added a few winking bits to illuminate character deformities. The production, under the direction of **Les Waters**, manages to be smart without being glib, save for some tin-literal costume choices by **Ilona Somogyi**, who dressed the three sisters in faux schemes. **Natalia Payne** is superb as the vampy, deadpan Masha. **Annie Smart**'s enormously detailed set speaks volumes. Through May 22 at **Berkeley Repertory Theatre** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $17-$73. 510-647-2949 or BerkeleyRep.org. — *Rachel Swan*

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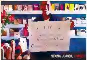

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Zellerbach Playhouse

"A fiendishly funny sendup of rural Irish life." —Washington Post

Famed Irish theater company Druid returns with award-winning playwright (The Beauty Queen of Leenane, The Lieutenant of Inishmore) Martin McDonagh's comic masterpiece. Set in rural Ireland in 1934 and directed by Tony Award winner Garry Hynes the play depicts the impact of a Hollywood film crew on the local residents when it shows up to document the tiny island of Inishmaan. When young, orphaned "Cripple Billy" is selected for a part in the film, his dreams of escape take flight. This production set an attendance record at New York's Atlantic Theater

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THEATER REVIEW

# NO ESCAPING THIS PASSION

Poor acting and a high concept mark Actors Ensemble's *Passion Play*

By Rachel Swan

The script, concept, and design far outpace the acting.

I tried, unsuccessfully, to leave *Passion Play* after Act I. Yes, I'm a sneaky bastard for doing it, but hear me out: Faced with three hours and thirty-two minutes (including intermission) of a community acting group interpreting **Sarah Ruhl**'s concept version of the Passion of Christ, what would you have done? Like, really.

But I didn't make my getaway, because one of the directors from **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley** followed me to my car. There was no escaping this *Passion*.

The members of Actors Ensemble produce and promote their plays through sheer tenacity, which in a sense makes them a lot like the characters of Ruhl's *Passion* cycle. It's a play about the making of a play — actually the most famous play in Western canonical literature: the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Ruhl wrote three iterations — the first takes place in 16th-century England, around the time Queen Elizabeth clamped down on Passion plays as a way to control religious iconography; the second in Nazi Germany; the third in Spearfish, South Dakota during the Vietnam War. Ruhl's whole point, as she stated in the playwright's note, was to explore that vast gulf that exists "between authentic identity and performance."

Show Details
*Passion Play* runs through May 21 at Live Oak Theater (1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). $12-$15. AEofBerkeley.org

Easier said than done, said **Stanley Spenger**, who presides over the Actors Ensemble's board of directors. He pitched the play to his cohorts last May, and met skepticism. "The real concern that the board had was that people would mistake what *Passion Play* was," Spenger said later. "That they would think it was something like Mel Gibson's *The Passion of [the] Christ*." In fact, some people did misconstrue the company's intent. "On Brown Paper and Goldstar we got a couple customer reviews asking why there wasn't more Jesus in the play," he said, referring to two ticketing sites.

Staff objections weren't the only obstacle to getting *Passion Play* off the ground. The original director, **Jeremy Cole**, had to bow out late in the production process, and Spenger leaving some question as to whether or not the play would still happen. In the end, Actors Ensemble recruited **Jon Wai-keung Lowe** to helm the production. It was an interesting choice. Lowe, who Spenger describes as more of a "visual and special effects guy," incorporated shadow puppetry into the set design. Thus he created a multiplicity of locations — forests, ocean floors, home interiors, insides of factories, and a railway to Auschwitz — within a strikingly ascetic template. By using two different light sources, he and a team of graphic artists (**Norman De Veyra**, **Paul Feinberg**, **Christine U'Ren**, and **Daniel Thobias Thanh Tran**) figured out how to dissolve from one scene to the next. Lowe's graphics made the play look elegant and comprehensive, even if it was clearly done with a paucity of resources.

As a result, the script, concept, and scenic design of this *Passion Play* far outpaced the acting, which was decidedly unpassionate. Let's put it this way: An extremely violent homosexual make-out scene in the middle of Act II — between a German foot soldier and a guy playing Jesus, no less — elicited zero reaction from the audience. Same went for the tragic demise of Mary in Act I (**Ashlin Ulrey**), who realized, too late, the consequences of messing with a fish gutter (**Jacob Cribbs**). Even the lesbian romance between "Mary 1" and "Mary 2" (Ulrey and **Elena Ruggiero**, who play the proverbial "virgin" and "whore" in Act I) gets short shrift in this production.

That said, it's still a beautiful concept. By hewing to Ruhl's stage directions, Lowe made the three acts highly symmetrical. Time marches on, but the Passion remains largely unchanged. Again and again, the same troupe of actors marches out with the same rickety wooden cross — two planks nailed together, one of which has to be moved to a 3 o'clock position. The same actors play the same roles, even if they shift over time. **Norman Macleod** is a friar in Act I, a journalist in Act II, and a VA psychiatrist in Act III, but whatever the case, his job is always to hear the other characters' confessions. **Lisa Wang** delivers eerily similar monologues as Queen Elizabeth, Hitler, and President Reagan.

Winking literalness is a hallmark of Sarah Ruhl — what other playwright would call for a red sky more than a dozen times in her script? Such things become all the more obvious when the acting lacks subtlety. There's no way to walk out of this production and not feel like you've been bludgeoned with messages about the limitations of religion and the ways it reflects, informs, and glosses over real life.

Clearly, the best part of this production is the story behind it. It's not just a rendition of Sarah Ruhl's *Passion Play*. It's an actual passion play — a work of hokey religious idolatry by a Ruhl acolyte (Spenger), who defied the naysayers in order to get his message out there. I was one of those naysayers, and I got spurned. And in retrospect, I'm grateful for that. ●

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

# LECTURES & LIT

## Susi Wyss Gets Civilized

Her new collection of short stories examines the ties that bind five different women

In five African countries and one US city, the five female protagonists of *The Civilized World* navigate expectation, trust, and risk, their lives intersecting in meaningful and surprising ways. In her debut novel of collected stories, author **Susi Wyss** tells the tales of two African women and three American ones — aspiring young businesswoman Adjoa, expat aid worker Janice, foreign service wife Ophelia, busybody Comfort, and her American daughter-in-law Linda — as they at first repel one another but eventually come to understand that their humanity and compassion are what render them truly civilized.

Raised in the United States and the Ivory Coast, Wyss, like *The Civilized World*'s solitary, rootless Janice, worked for many years managing health programs in Africa. And like Janice, Wyss — who visits **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Saturday, May 14 — once found herself surrounded by thousands of white butterflies while driving in the Central African Republic; just as they do in the book, the butterflies got into the car's fan, stranding Wyss on a remote road. "The image of those butterflies fluttering thick as snow has stayed with me ever since," said Wyss. "It just took a long time before I could figure out how to use them in the right story."

Susi Wyss. Esther Wyss-Flamm

A resident of Washington, DC, Wyss has lived in or visited almost all of the places in *The Civilized World*, "from Bahir Dar in Ethiopia and the Dzangha-Sangha Park in the Central African Republic, to the capital cities of Abidjan and Accra." The only one that she has not traveled to is Malawi, the setting for "Names," one of the book's most haunting stories. "I never planned to write a story set there until a Ghanaian friend who worked in Lilongwe told me about some of the Malawian names she'd heard. In Ghana, names are considered self-fulfilling, so she was shocked to hear some people called Nobody, Why, and Grief — or nonsensically, Address, Square, and Time. I knew there was a story in what she'd told me, but it took some time before I found the voice to tell it: that of an expatriate woman inexplicably obsessed with these odd names. It wasn't until I reached the end of the story that I finally understood the reason for the narrator's obsession."

As for the novel's structure — that of nine short stories, each of which could easily stand on its own, but all of which profit from their relation to the others — it was born of affection and curiosity, as many series and longer works are. "I wrote the first three stories in this collection over a period of three years," Wyss recalled. "It was a slow start because I had a crazy work and travel schedule, and I didn't know that I would make a book out of them. When the first story was published in the *Connecticut Review*, several of my friends who read it told me it left them wanting to know what happened next to the characters. I looked over the three stories I'd written, and realized I, too, wanted to know what happened to the five female characters in them and how their lives might intersect in different ways and in different countries." 4 p.m., free. 510-704-8222 or MrsDalloways.com

— *Stefanie Kalem*

## LECTURES

**Ask the Docs: Hand Over Boyfriend** Workshop on safe, fun anal and prostate play, led by Good Vibes Education Program Manager Dr. Charlie Glickman. Wed., May 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m., free. Good Vibrations, 2504 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-8987. GoodVibes.com.

**Berkeley Repertory Theatre Docent Talk: Three Sisters** A docent from the theater discusses the previous month. Berkeley Rep's current production, an adaptation of Anton Chekhov's Three Sisters. Mon., May 16, 7-8 p.m., free. Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Albany.

**Eli Pariser: "The Filter Bubble: What the Internet Is Hiding From You"** Presenting a lecture based on his book of the same name, about how the hidden rise of personalization on the Internet is controlling (and limiting) the information we consume. Wed., May 18, 7:30 p.m., $8-$12. First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-3696.

**Hunter Lovins: "Climate Capitalism"** The author shares ideas from her new book about climate change. Thu., May 12, 7-9 p.m., free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220. EcologyCenter.org.

**Linda Stout: "Collective Visioning"** Reading from *Collective Visioning: How Groups Can Work Together for a Just and Sustainable Future*, her new book on organizational leadership. Thu., May 12, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

**[illegible] Kids Science** The feature blogger and founder of [illegible] speaks as part of La Peña's [illegible] science series. Wed., May 18, 7 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

**Small Business Seminar: Social Media and Web Marketing** For small-business owners and entrepreneurs at any stage of the business development process. Advance registration suggested; see ACSBDC.org. Tue., May 17, 2-5 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

**Sunday Morning Meditation and Awareness Series** Fifteen-week series of meditation talks and meditations, facilitated by noted authors and spiritual teachers. Sundays, 7-9 p.m. Continues through June 12. $10 suggested donation. Berkeley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-841-4824. UUFB.org.

## LITERARY EVENTS

**Amanda Hodgkinson** Reading from her novel, *22 Britannia Road*. Mon., May 16, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlaceforBooks.com.

**Autobiography and Memoir Book Discussion Group** Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., no cost. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

**Bilingual Storytimes for Latinos** Saturdays, 11:30 a.m., free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685. Library.hayward-ca.gov.

**Bruce H. Feingold, Susan Antolin, and Patricia J. Machmiller** The three Bay Area haiku poets read their interpretations of the ancient Japanese poetic form. Sun., May 15, 4-6 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

**Chelsea Handler** Signing her new book, *Lies That Chelsea Handler Told Me*. Sun., May 15, 4:30 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

**Christine Carter: "Raising Happiness: 10 Simple Steps for More Joyful Kids and Happier Parents"** The executive director of UC Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center shares ideas from her parenting manual. Wed., May 18, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlaceforBooks.com.

**Francisco Goldman** Reading from his novel, *Say Her Name*. Thu., May 12, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

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# PICKS

## Jason Shiga

Oakland cartoonist **Jason Shiga** — creator of the bubble-plot mystery *Book Hunter* and the "Choose Your Own Adventure"-gone-awry kids' book *Meanwhile* — will celebrate the release of his latest graphic novel *Empire State: A Love Story (or Not)* at the recently opened **Escapist Comic Store** (3099 Claremont Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, May 12. The wistful, funny romance follows pop-culture-savvy (but decidedly unworldly) Jimmy as he hops a bus from Oaktown to the Big Apple with one intention: to finally declare his love for his best friend. 7 p.m., free. 510-852-4642 or EscapistComics.com — *Stefanie Kalem*

## Daphne Gottlieb

*Don't kiss me/like they do/in the movies/hate me/like they do/on the country music/broadcast news.* **Daphne Gottlieb** is back, sexy, and angry and real as ever on her newest collection, ***15 Ways to Stay Alive***. Gottlieb reads as part of the long-running **Poetry Flash** series at **Moe's Books** (2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, May 12, 7:30 p.m., free. 510-849-2087 or MoesBooks.com — *S.K.*

## Larry Flynt and David Eisenbach

[illegible] Columbia University history professor: combine the two and we get the randy but well-researched ***One Nation Under Sex***, pegged to the gilded sexual proclivities of White House residents James Buchanan (gay!), Eleanor Roosevelt (gay!), Dolly Madison (loose!), Ben Franklin (very big in Paris!), and many many more. Authors **Larry Flynt and David Eisenbach** will share salacious excerpts on Tuesday, May 17, at **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley). 7 p.m., free. 510-525-7777 or BooksInc.net — *S.K.*

## Ross Perlin

According to the Fair Labor Standards Act, around 50 percent of US internships are illegal. But that doesn't stop organizations — from the largest corporations to the tiniest, most well-meaning nonprofits — from exploiting this vulnerable workforce. **Ross Perlin**, who did his time in the free-labor trenches, takes a long, hard (and often funny) look at the issue in ***Intern Nation: How to Earn Nothing and Learn Little in the Brave New Economy***. Have your assistant save you a seat on Thursday, May 12, at **University Press Books** (2430 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). 6 p.m., free. 510-548-0585 or UniversityPressBooks.com — *S.K.*

Daphne Gottlieb.

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# L&L

[illegible] reads from his novels. Sat., May 14, 1 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. [illegible] BooksInc.net.

**Jason Shiga** Reading from his new graphic novel, *Empire State: A Love Story (or Not)*. Tue., May 17, 1 p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. [illegible] BooksInc.net.

**Judith [illegible]** [illegible] Fri., May 13, 6 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

**Linda King and [illegible]** Reading from their respective poetry collections as part of the Last Word Reading Series. Fri., May 13, [illegible] Berkeley. [illegible]

**Lyrics and [illegible]** [illegible] Local writers reading poetry and prose. Wed., May 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Pegasus Books Downtown, 2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

**[illegible]** Artist and Alameda [illegible] his new collection, *Everything Is Its Own Reward*. Sun., May 15, 3 p.m., free. [illegible] 5433 College Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

**[illegible]** Reading from her new book [illegible] Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

**Poetry Flash: Daphne Gottlieb** The poet reads from her latest collection, *15 Ways to Stay Alive*. Thu., May 12, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. [illegible] MoesBooks.com.

**[illegible]** Reading from her novel, *The* [illegible] Sat., May 14, [illegible] Berkeley, [illegible]

**[illegible] Alexander, [illegible]** Reading from their respective poetry collections. Tue., May 17, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. [illegible] MoesBooks.com.

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# PUBLIC INTEREST

**[illegible]** Third Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. [illegible] Alameda. [illegible]

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# SPOKEN WORD

**[illegible] Poetry Slam** Hosted by Charles Ellik. [illegible] Wednesdays, 8 p.m. [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

**[illegible] and Open Mic** [illegible] Tue., May 17, [illegible] Grand Lake Coffee House, [illegible] Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible] GrandLakeCafe.com.

**Word of [illegible]** Poetry series hosted by [illegible] Second Thursday of every month, [illegible] p.m., free. Books Inc., 1344 Park St., Alameda. [illegible] BooksInc.net.

**Open Mic** Sign-up at 7:30 p.m. [illegible] Tuesday of every month, 8 p.m. [illegible]

**Poetry [illegible]** A twice-monthly open mic with [illegible] hosted by [illegible] First and third [illegible] of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. [illegible] WorldGroundCafe.com.

**Second Saturday Prose & Poetry Reading** Reading and open mic. Second Saturday of every month, 1-3 p.m. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. [illegible] FrankBetteCenter.org.

**[illegible] Poetry Contest** [illegible] Second Friday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. [illegible] FrankBetteCenter.org.

**[illegible] Open Mic** [illegible] Third Sunday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. [illegible] FrankBetteCenter.org.

**Thursday at [illegible]** [illegible] Thursdays, 8 p.m., free. [illegible] Mediterraneum Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. [illegible]

**Works in Progress** [illegible] Sat., May 12, [illegible] Plymouth United Church of Christ, 424 Monte Vista Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

**[illegible] Open-Mic Night** Poets, storytellers, musicians, and all other artists are invited to share their work. [illegible] Friday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. [illegible] San Leandro. [illegible]

**[illegible] Poetry Slam** Open-mic [illegible] 21. The event is free to the public. Second Friday of every month, [illegible] Fremont. [illegible]

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AQUARIUM AGE

# CREATIVITY PREVAILS

For the week of May 11-17 2011

By Ralfee Finn

Practical matters begin to dominate the real lines of daily life as several planets move out of the idealistic perspective of Aries and into the realistic viewpoint of Taurus. As the astral emphasis shifts from the fire of Aries to the earthiness of Taurus, attitudes, good or bad, naughty or nice, are likely to reflect the new arrangement. Gone are the tempestuous, reactive and maybe just a little over-the-top dramatic releases that don't accomplish much except provide a fleeting moment of feeling better. And while we may miss the drama, it won't be for long, especially as it is replaced with the soothing, sensible, pragmatic levelheadedness that allows for sensible plans and projects. Don't worry: You won't be bored because you'll be too busy.

Mars is the first planet to leave Aries: it enters Taurus on May 11. (Pacific Standard Time that departure is just moments after midnight.) Whenever Mars transits the Sign of Taurus, we experience the increased capacity to work hard — very hard — and as a result, Mars in Taurus is a signature of immense patience and endurance. Don't be surprised if you're suddenly quite radical to approach any problem with renewed determination to find pragmatic solutions for all concerned parties.

Also anticipate a desire to acquire specifically things that are useful as well as beautiful. Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, and Mercury, symbol for all things mental, both enter Taurus on May 15, where they continue their ongoing conjunction with Mars. Venus is the Ruler of Taurus, and when she returns home for a visit, her powers are heightened. Be prepared to experience a deep desire for love, and because her mesmerizing powers are legendary, even if you are not inclined toward amorous adventure, you just might find yourself drawn to the sensual as well as the sexual. Mercury's presence in Taurus amplifies an appreciation for form, especially when it expresses function, and because Mercury is joined at the astral hip to Venus, many of us could experience a strong urge to speak in verse or to break into song at any moment. Taurus is the Sign assigned to the throat and really, wouldn't life be just a little more interesting if everyone broke into song once in a while?

As the week unfolds, Mercury, Venus and Mars all move into a trine to Pluto. We mostly love this, if only because the entire configuration is supercharged with creative power. Mercury trine Pluto always indicates an unrelenting need for intellectual understanding — something we can use a little more of these days. Venus trine Pluto creates extraordinary powers of attraction, coupled with artistic prowess. Mars trine Pluto provides the power to accomplish almost anything. The entire bundle supports the confidence to turn those Aries visions of the last several weeks into concrete reality.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that too.

**ARIES** You may find yourself working harder than anticipated, but don't let the workload affect your attitude. Simply devote yourself to enterprise, and you will make wide strides in actualizing your goals.

**TAURUS** You may not be as powerful as a locomotive or able to leap tall buildings in a single bound — but who cares. Life is moving fast enough for you to make consistent, steady progress toward your desired destination.

**GEMINI** Honor your need for quiet time and instead of resisting the urge to snuggle under the covers, indulge it. Don't worry about your responsibilities: once you're rested you'll handle those obligations with ease.

**CANCER** As the cosmic spotlight illuminates your talents, here are a couple of questions to consider: What would be the best way for you to share your gifts, and what would it look like to have those gifts appreciated?

**LEO** Be absolutely true to yourself, and that authenticity will allow you to focus your time and energy so that you can concentrate on what it is you want to create. You don't have to build an entire empire in one day, you just have to believe that you will eventually succeed.

**VIRGO** If you can understand where you are in relation to where you've been, you'll have a greater understanding of where you're headed. Move forward with enthusiasm, but don't forget how hard you worked to make progress.

**LIBRA** No matter how much you rely on external sources, listen to your intuition first. There's nothing wrong with considering the opinions of others, but wisdom is most effective when it is distilled from your own experience.

**SCORPIO** Be clear, precise and direct with others, and not only will your words move mountains of resistance, but they will also catalyze a vibrant process in most, if not all, of your relationships.

**SAGITTARIUS** Just because life is all about work that doesn't mean life is boring. Yes, there is too much to handle comfortably, but if you take the time set a comfortable pace, you'll find the workload easier to bear.

**CAPRICORN** An influx of inspiration moves you into an intense creative phase. It doesn't matter how you express yourself — gardening, drawing, singing, writing, or painting — as long as you just do it.

**AQUARIUS** Mars moves to the deepest part of your chart, quickly followed by Venus and Mercury, and they all stir a deep desire to hunker down at home so that you can enjoy the beauty of your surroundings.

**PISCES** Be prepared for all sorts of conversations, some initiated by you and some started by others. Also anticipate that whatever is said will trigger emotional responses that are indications of the next step of personal growth. ●

**For More Info**

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9264, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2011 by Ralfee Finn

The duck larb was delectable

Chris Duffey

# SOUR AND SPICY

East Oakland's Green Papaya Deli excels at Laotian cuisine

By Matthew Stafford

Although Laos has borrowed the occasional ingredient and cooking technique from different influences over the centuries, the national cuisine is absolutely unique — fresh and healthy yet rich in a component often lacking in other fresh and healthy cuisines: deep, pungent, bright, bitter, sour, spicy, tongue-tingling flavor. Unlike its neighbors Thailand, China, and Vietnam, Laos showcases the clean, distinct flavors of its ingredients — raw greens and fresh herbs like galangal, dill, lime, and lemongrass primarily — instead of muddling them with sweeteners or other distractions. Garlic and chili peppers and fermented anchovy paste are employed to accent and heighten tastes and textures without overburdening the palate.

Several East Bay eateries serve Laotian food — **Vientian Cafe**, **Black and Silver** and **Champa Garden** in Oakland, **Lao-Thai Kitchen** in Albany, **Daru Thai Lao Cuisine** in Berkeley — but the **Green Papaya Deli** is exemplary. (The name is a misnomer: this is an honest-to-God restaurant with no display cases or pre-prepared noshes whatsoever.) Open since 2007, this family-run enterprise (mom in the kitchen, daughters up front) prepares and serves authentic home-style Laotian cooking to order in huge, inexpensive portions. It's located at the quiet Lake Merritt end of International Boulevard a few blocks north of Little Saigon proper and even farther afield from the push-carts and taco trucks of Fruitvale. The storefront is unprepossessing, but the tiny interior has a certain charm that trumps the flatscreen TV, linoleum floors, and fluorescent lighting. White napery, colorful flowers, rustic musical instruments, elephant-themed artwork, and a palpably friendly and accommodating vibe create an oasis of old-country civility.

The primary component of Laotian cuisine is sticky rice, and by "sticky" we mean gummy enough to spackle a retaining wall. At Green Papaya it's served traditionally in a bamboo steamer basket, and the idea is to break off a chunk with your fingers, form it into a ball, make an indentation in the center, and use it as a scoop to haul the other food into your mouth. (Laotian cooking is usually on the dry side because otherwise it's too messy to eat with your fingers.) We opted to break clumps of the rice into our food with chopsticks instead, but the classic method would've been more satisfying on at least a couple of levels.

Not that the dishes suffered. *Som moo*, raw pork fermented until "cooked" and formed into sausage, had a rich, lush texture and a yummy kimchi-sour flavor worthy of Adesso's finest salumi. Another sausage, *sai oua*, was crackly-skinned and fat-ribboned as well as dry and chewy, but dry and chewy in a way that distilled the ingredients — ground pork, onion, garlic, lemongrass, chili pepper — down to their essential flavors. And papaya salad, a Lao/Thai classic, gets a grand production here, combining the succulent fruit with shrimp, squid, long beans, cucumber, cabbage, peanuts, peppers, garlic, tomato, noodles, and a brisk sour-lime dressing; the different elements balanced against one another beautifully.

The national dish of Laos is *larb*, a salad of raw or cooked meat or seafood marinated in lime, chilies, and herbs. The duck *larb* was delectable: the fresh bite of mint, cilantro, lemongrass, and galangal ascending a hearty, savory mound of minced fowl touched with lime-pepper scallions and the toasted ground rice that's such an integral part of Laotian cooking. (*Larb* is especially tasty wrapped inside one of the crisp lettuce leaves that are brought to your table on a platter with sliced cucumbers — a cooling antidote to all that spiciness.) The curry-coconut chicken noodle soup was more Thai than Laotian — Lao cooking isn't big on curry or coconut — but the bitter lime, peel, garlic, galangal, and incendiary chili peppers gave the creamy milk a more smoky edge and the bowl brimmed with big chunks of moist chicken, crunchy bean sprouts, and fragrant scallion. *Mok pa*, steamed fish wrapped in a banana leaf, was fun in the easy, unboundary way any mysterious soon-to-be-unwrapped bundle is, and in this case the gift inside (chopped catfish jammed with pepper, lemongrass, ginger, and God-knows-what) was pretty indeed. The first taste smacks you upside the head but by the third or fourth bite you're too busy luxuriating in culinary combinations you've never before encountered to not embrace all of its pungent, intense, funky-fermented flavors.

Green Papaya's two dozen Lao dishes are complemented with an equal number of Thai specialties that point to the differences between the two cuisines. The red curry soup was a hearty, spicy bowl of prawns, squid, al dente bell pepper, sliced bamboo, and sprigs of fresh basil in a coconut milk broth that was sweeter and richer than the Lao chicken noodle soup's and lacked its soul-healing bite as well. *Pad kee mao* got its name ("drunkard's noodles") from the dish's sturdy, snappy comfort food/hangover-prevention qualities: thick slabs of stir-fried rice noodles glistening with oil, fish sauce and soy sauce and ribboned with chunks of beef, sweet pepper, cabbage, scallion and tomato. While perfectly tasty, it had none of the punchy, distinct flavors of a classic Laotian dish.

Despite all the fresh produce, Green Papaya doesn't offer an overwhelming selection of vegetarian options. A tasty papaya salad is available without the squid and shrimp, and there are long-bean and cucumber salads as well, but all three are prepared with fish sauce. The Thai side of the menu is more promising, offering a *pad Thai* and a *pad kee mao* prepared with tofu instead of meat, as well as a red curry with tofu, zucchini and coconut milk plus *pad pog boon mit* (pan-fried cabbage with broccoli, mushrooms, peppers, and bean sprouts).

Alcohol isn't served but nobody seems to mind if you corkage yourself a six-pack from Security Liquors next door (beer is wonderful with Laotian food). Or shake off with something from the cooler in the corner: coconut juice, creamy raw milk spiked with cane sugar, or Cielly Green, an extra-sweet soft drink with a green-hued tea flavor and bits of jelly at the bottom. The kitchen also prepares Thai iced coffee and tea to order, and since there's no dessert menu, either makes a nice finale to your taste bud-awakening, flavor-abundant meal. ■

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

**Green Papaya Deli**
207 International Blvd. Oakland
510-836-5337
Cash, MasterCard, Visa
Hours: Sun. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Mon. noon-8 p.m., Tue-Sat. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Reservations accepted.

### Sample Menu

| | |
|---|---|
| Sour Pork Sausage | $2.50 |
| Coconut Curry Chicken Soup | $7 |
| Papaya Salad | $7 |
| Duck Larb | $8.50 |
| Banana Leaf Steamed Catfish | $8 |
| Beef Pad Kee Mao | $7 |

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# RESTAURANTS & CAFES

*This guide includes restaurants recommended by Express food critics. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price, and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person; $$—$10-$25; $$$—$25-$50; $$$$—more than $50.*

## ALAMEDA

**Angelfish** 813 Island Dr., Ste. 02, Alameda, 510-865-0400. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

**Bistro** 2506 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-4920. (California Cuisine/Steak/Local/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**Bistro Superstar** 1345 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-6200. (Southeast Asian) $$

**Dragon Rouge** 2104 Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-521-1870. (Vietnamese) $-$$

**Everett & Jones Barbeque** 1000 Main St., Alameda, 510-814-6149. (Barbecue) $$

**Kitchen of India** 1331 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-0921. (Indian/Pakistani)

**Forbidden Island** 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332. (Bars & Clubs/Eclectic/Exotic/Hawaiian/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

**[illegible]** 1515 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-0430. [illegible] $$

**The [illegible]** 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-1011. (Tapas/Small Plates) $

**La Penca Azul** 1440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-9111. (Mexican) $$

**[illegible] Table** 2315 A Encinal Ave., Alameda, 510-410-0175. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

**Ole's Waffle Shop** 1507 Park St., Alameda, 510-522-2610. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

**[illegible]** 1630 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-9000. (Mexican) $

**[illegible]** 2412 Webb Ave., Alameda, 510-521-3366. (Deli) $

**[illegible]** 1301 Park St., Alameda, 510-521-2400. (American/Italian/Eclectic/Exotic) $$

**Speisekammer** 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300. (German/Austrian) $$

**[illegible] Table** 1428 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-1166. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

**Zen** 2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-1178. (Eclectic/Exotic/Fusion/Chinese/Hawaiian/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Ramen/Pasta/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

## ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY SOLANO

**Ajanta** 1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers** 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185. (Breakfast/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

**Bowl'd** 1479 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-6222. (Korean) $$

**Bua Luang** 1166 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-8080. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

**Cactus Taqueria** 1881 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-1881. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

**Café Raj** 1158 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-524-5664. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

**[illegible]** 1389 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-4569. (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**China Village** 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2285. (Chinese) $-$$

**Christopher's Nothing Fancy Cafe** 1019 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-3547. (Mexican/Southwestern) $-$$

**Fatapple's** 7525 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433. (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

**Fonda** 1501 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-559-9006. (Mexican/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable/South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

**[illegible]** 996 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-1560. (Indian/Pakistani) $

**The Hot Shop** 609 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-9016. (Mexican) $

**[illegible] Kitchen** 1581 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-1888. (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable) $

**Kathmandu** 1410 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-3222. (Tibetan) $$

**Kensington Circus Pub** 389 Colusa Ave., Kensington, 510-524-8814. (English/Irish/Bars & Clubs) $$

**Khana Peena** 1889 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-2649. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

**Kirin** 1767 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1677. (Chinese) $$

**Lalime's** 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838. (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

**Lanesplitter Pizza To Go** 1051 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-527-5375. (Pizza)

**Lao-Thai Kitchen** 1408 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-558-3276. (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Burmese) $

**[illegible]** 2235 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-6023. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

**[illegible]** 825-827 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-2502. (French/Italian) $$

**[illegible]** 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-4811. (Japanese) $$

**[illegible]** 1411 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2330. (Chinese) $$

**Rivoli** 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

**[illegible]** 1045 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-2375. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

**Sam's Log Cabin** 945 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-558-0494. (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**[illegible]** 1137 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-8581. (Korean) $$

**Taqueria Talavera** 1561 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-6085. (Taqueria) $

**[illegible]** 977 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-525-1000. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

**[illegible] Bistro** 1715 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-8900. (Tapas/Small Plates/Vietnamese) $$

**Zachary's Chicago Pizza** 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950. (Pizza) $-$$

## BERKELEY DOWNTOWN

**[illegible]** 2542 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8811. [illegible] $$

**[illegible]** 2171 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-3888. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

**Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine** Berkeley Saturday Farmers' Market, Berkeley, 510-830-0796. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen** 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900. (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

**[illegible]** 2110 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4435. (Pizza) $

**Bangkok Thai Cuisine** 1410 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-8483. (Thai/Burmese) $

**[illegible]** 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-847-1750. (French/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

**[illegible]** 2128 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-845-2290. (Wine Bar/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Mexican) $$

**[illegible] House** 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5289. (Indian/Pakistani) $

**Bistro Liaison** 1849 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2155. (New Brunch/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

**Cafe Tibet** 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5853. (Tibetan) $-$$

**Caffe Venezia** 1799 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-4681. (Italian) $$-$$$

**[illegible]** 1854 Center St., Berkeley, 510-704-8068. (Pizza) $

**[illegible]** 1922 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1455. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

**[illegible]** 2120 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8880. (Middle Eastern) $

**[illegible]** 2127 Hearst St., Berkeley, 510-841-8884. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Dessert/Ice Cream/Bakery/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**[illegible]** 2270 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0880. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

**[illegible] Deli** 2233 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-9549. (Deli) $

**[illegible]** 1900 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (American)

**[illegible]** Center Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Gather** 2200 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-809-0400. (Organic/Sustainable/American) $$

**Giovanni Restaurant** 2420 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6678. (Italian) $$

**[illegible] Papaya** 2016 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6503. (Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**[illegible]** 2130 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-540-3202. (Deli) $

**Henry's [illegible] & Grille** 2600 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-809-4137. (California Cuisine/New American) $$

**Herbivore** 2451 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1675. (Organic/Vegan) $-$$

**International [illegible]** 2209 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-8490. (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

**Ippuku** 2130 Center St., Berkeley, 510-665-1969. (Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$

**[illegible] BBQ** 2120 Hearst St., Berkeley, 510-841-8036. (American/Barbecue) $-$$

**Jayakarta** 2026 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5334. (Southeast Asian) $-$$

**Jupiter** 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277. (Brewpubs/Pizza/Bars & Clubs) $-$$

**Long Life Vegi House** 2129 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6072. (Chinese/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**[illegible]** 2130 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Barbecue) $-$$

**[illegible]** 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-844-2992. (American) $

**The Mayflower** 2156 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-9788. (Chinese) $

**[illegible] International Sports Café** 2150 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Breakfast/Brunch) $$

**Mount Everest Restaurant** 2598 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3951. (Tibetan/Indian/Pakistani) $$

**La Note** 2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1535. (Breakfast/Brunch/French) $$-$$$

**Oscar's** 1890 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2164. (American/Diner) $

**[illegible] Pizza** 2550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-9799. (Pizza/Italian) $

**Pizza Piazza** [illegible] Shattuck Sq., Berkeley, 510-549-1700. (Italian) $

**Platano** 2942 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-0326. (Central/South American) $-$$

**Plearn** 1922 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9999. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

**[illegible]** 2068 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. (Japanese) $

**Razan's Organic Kitchen** 2119 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-486-8440. (Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Revival Bar & Kitchen** 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9950. (Brunch/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Bars & Clubs/New American) $$$

**San Francisco Soup Company** 2322 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-7688. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

**[illegible] Cafe** 2350 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-9118. (Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

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# RECENTLY REVIEWED

**Pepes Pizza**
2516B Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-644-2992. Costing less than round-trip BART fare from Berkeley to San Francisco, this pizza/salad/taco buffet might be the best deal in town. The salad bar offers a vat of iceberg, a tether of assorted greens, and a dozen-plus more bearing other components. Five pizzas with meat toppings, five without, plus outrageous butter-brushed sweet pizza, are refreshed and replaced every fifteen minutes. A nacho machine and taco bar expand the majority with beef, boiled beans, sour cream, salsa, chopped veggies, and shredded cheese. Cold-drink machines disgorge twelve different beverages, and soft-serve ice cream comes in two flavors. A gigantic flat-screen TV airs sports constantly, which is distracting — but rugs absorb much of the sound, so you can actually relax here. The price is certainly relaxing. $

**BEC's Bistro**
2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-647-8790. This rambling two-story bar-restaurant-night spot still has the look and vibe of an Irish pub (the building housed Beckett's for a decade), but the entirely revamped menu features organic/sustainable California-Mediterranean specialties, some of them unfocused but many of them impressive. Try the delicate flatbread pizzetta, the seasonal farmers' market soup, and the roasted chicken with Brussels sprouts, and don't miss the apple tart for dessert. House cocktails are on the sweet and insubstantial side; nightly DJs make conversation difficult. $$$

**Luca Ristorante Italiano**
2057 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-849-9718. Raised in Molise, southeast of Rome, Luca's owner-chef Luca Rotera cooks dishes representing many parts of his native land, from breaded-and-pan-fried chicken Milanese to [illegible] to sparkly-smooth penne with vodka sauce. Lunchtime sandwiches include a juicy, meal-flavored, and surprisingly filling eggplant parmigiana and a smile-em-quick sub starring hefty beef-and-pork meatballs. Customize your pasta meal all day by mixing and matching your choice of nine different sauces with six different noodle types. Order at the register, then wait to be served at a cozy wooden table that commands sweeping views of San Pablo Avenue through floor-to-ceiling windows and into the open kitchen where flames flare from Rome's frying pans. $

**Homeroom**
400 40th St., Oakland, 510-597-0400. Co-owners Erin Wade and Allison Arevalo wanted to open a restaurant together — but, due to their limited experience, felt the restaurant should have a narrow focus. They settled on macaroni and cheese. At Homeroom, it comes in several different savvy styles augmented with such novelties as jalapeño pepper, Vermont white Cheddar, Cypress Grove fresh goat's-milk chevre, Niman Ranch chorizo and hot dogs, and even potato chips. A vegan version is a standout, made with no cheese at all, not even vegan cheese, but a smooth mélange of tofu, soy milk, soy sauce, and yeast. Beer and wine pairings are suggested for each type of mac. Homeroom's loyal contingent of fans (long lines usually precede being seated) apparently don't mind the dismayingly high noise level. $

**Doña Tomás**
5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0522. Doña Tomás's venerable nouveau-Mexican/California cuisine hotspot is as fun and festive as ever, especially on the inviting back patio, where the Arbor margaritas taste especially delicious. The upscale menu offerings tend to lack the rich and deep-down satisfaction one associates with classic and casual Mexican cookery, but for the most part they're perfectly tasty nonetheless. Get the lime pie for dessert. Impressive tequila list. $$$

**Cafe Yesterday**
2112 [illegible], Berkeley 510-[illegible]-9609. Cafe Yesterday houses Berkeley's most comprehensive cereal bar. In this mellow, newly built, spic-and-span space, vinyl records spin retro sounds over trendy couch and gleaming wooden tables set magnificently far apart. Go wholesome (oats, fruit, seeds, Special K, granola, nuts) or straight into sugar shock (Fruity Pebbles, Cap'n Crunch, Cocoa Puffs, cinnamon swirl, chocolate chips, Gummi Bears). A well-rounded menu also includes salads, sandwiches, bagels, burritos, house-baked pastries, and fair-trade coffee. A portion of the nonprofit cafe's proceeds is earmarked for programs benefiting local artists and the homeless. $

**Slow** 1966 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-3663 (American/New Southern) | $-$$
**Sunny Side Cafe** 2136 Oxford St., Berkeley, 510-845-9900 (American/California Cuisine/Breakfast/Brunch) $$
**Taste of the Himalayas** 1700 Shattuck Ave, Suite A, Berkeley 510-849-4663 (Indian/Pakistani) $$
**Thai Delight Cuisine** 1700 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley 510-549-0611 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
**top dog** 2160 Center St., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
**Tuk Tuk Thai Cafe** 2486-2488 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-8300 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
**[illegible]** 2350 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-548-9987 (Middle Eastern) $$
**Udupi Palace** 1901 University Ave., Berkeley 510-843-6600 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
**Venus** 2327 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-5950 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/American/Mexican/New American) $-$$$
**Yogurt Harmony** 2258 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-5800 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $
**Zabu Zabu** 1919 Addison St., Berkeley 510-848-9228 (Japanese/Sushi) $$$
**Zaytoon** 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-1801 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern/Persian/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

## BERKELEY-NORTH

**Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers** 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-849-2827 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
**Celia's Shattuck Restaurant** 1840 Euclid Ave., Berkeley 510-549-1480 (Mexican) $-$$
**César** 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
**Cha-Ya** 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-981-1213 (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
**The Cheese Board Pizza Collective** 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-549-3055 (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $
**Chez Panisse** 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 downstairs/510-548-5049 cafe (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$
**Cioccolata Di Vino** 1801 Shattuck Ave Ste C, Berkeley 510-666-1282 (Bakery/Dessert/Ice Cream/Wine Bar) $$
**Corso** 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8004 (Italian) $$
**[illegible]** 1674 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-5889 (Chinese/Taiwanese/Ice Cream) $
**Fatapple's** 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch) $-$$
**[illegible]** North Berkeley Farmers Market, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
**Gioia Pizzeria** 1586 Hopkins St., Berkeley 510-528-4692 (Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $
**Guerilla Cafe** 1620 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-845-2233 (Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch) $
**[illegible]** [illegible], Berkeley 510-540-8888 (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
**Meritage** 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley 510-549-8510 (American/New American)
**Northside Cafe** 1878 Euclid Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3663 (American) $
**Philz Coffee** 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-705-1503 (Coffeehouses) $
**Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen** 1475 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-3354 (Deli/Coffee/Tea/Organic/Sustainable) $$
**top dog** 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
**[illegible] Fortune** 1870 Euclid Ave., Berkeley 510-704-1009 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $
**[illegible]** 1880 Euclid Ave., Berkeley 510-845-5300 (American) $

## BERKELEY-SOUTH

**Adagia** 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
**Addie's Pizza Pie** 3290 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-547-1100 (Pizza/American/Dessert/Ice Cream) $$
**Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine** Sunday Berkeley Farmers Market, Berkeley 510-548-3333 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
**Breads of India** 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-848-7684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
**Cafe Valparaiso** 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-3500 (South American) $$
**Caribbean Cove** 2516 Telegraph Ave., 2nd floor, Berkeley 510-883-8476 (Caribbean) $$
**La Shattuck** 2976 College Ave., Berkeley

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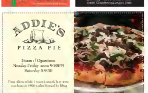
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TICKETS: BayAreaGreenTours.org
More Info: [illegible] Find us on Facebook

# Don't Try This at Home

We drank Blast so you don't have to

First, because this is apparently still up for debate: **Blast** — the **Snoop Dogg**-endorsed, **Colt 45** branded malt liquor currently under fire for allegedly marketing to kids — is obviously, unequivocally, *beyond-a-shadow-of-a-doubt definitely* designed to appeal to and be consumed by children. It comes in a 23.5-ounce tall boy that looks like a soda can, only bigger and more fun, with a honking Colt 45 bronco surrounded by a colorful, vaguely psychedelic design and cute little comic book fruit icons. It smells like bubblegum, looks like a cartoon, and tastes like a melted Otter Pop.

It has been aptly described by San Francisco City Attorney and mayoral hopeful **Dennis Herrera** — one of several politicians currently calling on **Pabst** to halt production of the drink — as "fruit-flavored binge in-a-can." It is so overpoweringly sweet that you can't taste the alcohol, which at 12 percent by volume — 50 percent more than that of original Colt 45 — is not insignificant. It is carbonated, ever-so-faintly malty, and just slightly thicker than water. It is god-awful. No one over the age of sixteen with functional taste buds and even a shred of dignity would drink it.

We tried two flavors, raspberry watermelon and pomegranate blueberry ($2.99, widely available in the East Bay). They tasted exactly the same. There were no notes, no subtle flavors, none of the delicate peatiness or burnt toffee or sherrywood that alcohol writers typically look for.

(I would later find that the Blast web site contains a section of charmingly earnest "flavor profiles," in which the pomegranate-blueberry is said to "[combine] the sweet yet smooth taste of blueberries with the tart finish of pomegranate juice to create a unique flavor that is as bright and bold as the liquid color itself," and the raspberry watermelon is described as "bursting with raspberry and fresh watermelon," with a "smooth, yet noticeably fruit-spiked flavor." So, there's that.)

Co-taster Ben described it as "carbonated Jell-O," while Kasper went with the Jolly Ranchers simile. All I got was a rush of corn syrup, followed by more corn syrup, followed finally by a metallic bitter aftertaste that made my eyes water and my mouth tingle.

It took me almost an hour and several glasses of water, but I finally finished my can and went out to a bar, the entire bottom half of my face dyed a sick Lazarian blue from all the food coloring. I was so fucked up that I drank half of someone else's rum and Coke without realizing it, and the next day I awoke with the worst headache of my entire life.

Do not under any circumstances let your kids near this stuff.

*— Ellen Cushing*

## R&C

[illegible]

## BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

[illegible]

## CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

[illegible]

## EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

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5th Annual

# Oakland Indie Awards

Celebrating the Social & Environmental Impact of Oakland's Independent Businesses & Artists

# PARTY WITH YOUR FAVES

## FRI. MAY 13, 2011

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## OAKLANDINDIEAWARDS.COM

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ONE PACIFICCOAST FOUNDATION

THE OAKLAND INDIE AWARDS IS A PROGRAM OF ONE PACIFICCOAST FOUNDATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EAST BAY EXPRESS

EAST BAY EXPRESS

# ABOUT ONE PACIFICCOAST

## THE OAKLAND INDIE AWARDS

The Indie Awards celebrate the idea that we can improve our economy, our environment, and our quality of life through simple daily financial decisions such as choosing to shop with locally-owned businesses and local artists

Member FDIC
Equal Housing Lender
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## ONE PACIFICCOAST BANK

### OUR MISSION

The Mission of One PacificCoast Bank, FSB, is to build prosperity in our communities through beneficial banking services delivered in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner

### VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is of a banking industry that is fair to the person with the least bargaining power, provides access to financial services for all our communities, particularly the traditionally underserved, results in the long-term prosperity of responsible consumers, promotes financial system stability and contributes to the sustainability of the environmental commons. We call this vision beneficial banking.

## ONE PACIFICCOAST FOUNDATION

One PacificCoast Foundation engages in charitable and educational activities to increase financial literacy, stimulate community development, help eliminate discrimination, encourage affordable housing, and alleviate economic distress within low-income communities.

### A UNIQUE STRUCTURE TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

One PacificCoast Foundation, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, maintains the rights to the economic benefits of One PacificCoast Bank. This means that any profits from the bank go back to the foundation to build the prosperity of our local communities!

### SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES AND ARTISTS

One PacificCoast offers several products and programs to support small businesses and local artists. The bank is focused on helping businesses and nonprofits create jobs and provide services in the community by providing loans, accounts, and money management services. The foundation provides technology, marketing, and other services to businesses and artists through the Oakland Indie Awards, Oakland Unwrapped! Online Marketplace, and the Oakland Business Assistance Center website.

### SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

One PacificCoast supports individuals and families through personal checking and savings accounts designed to serve a range of customers, from those new to banking (Fair Start ATM) to those wanting their deposits to help build strong, sustainable communities (EcoEarnings Checking and OPCB Friends & Supporters). To help build the financial strength of our communities, we offer financial education, lead community initiatives on financial capacity building and have recently developed the Pal Loan, an emergency loan program designed to help individuals through a financial crisis while building their credit and their savings.

### SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT

One PacificCoast is deeply committed to sustainability through our products, services and operations. Through our business lending, we intentionally support key sectors that we feel are key for sustainability in our communities, including Renewable Energy, Specialty Agriculture, Green Building, and Low-income Housing. We use the principles of Natural Step to guide ourselves and our customers in terms of social and environmental outcomes, including recycling and waste prevention, sustainable purchasing, and the built environment. Our Pacific Northwest offices have been built using LEED standards, and our Oakland offices (bank and foundation) are certified through the Bay Area Green Business program.

---

### ONE PACIFICCOAST BANK

1438 Webster St. Suite 100 | Oakland, CA 94612
www.opcb.com | 510.550.8400

### ONE PACIFICCOAST FOUNDATION

1438 Webster St. Suite 101 | Oakland, CA 94612
www.onepcf.org | 510.663.2253

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Program Officer

**Andrea Walker**
Executive Program Assistant

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**Daniel Skaff**
**Kat Taylor**

# EAST BAY EXPRESS

# ABOUT THE EAST BAY EXPRESS

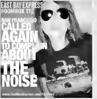
WWW.EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

If one mayor represented all of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, that person's 2.5 million constituents would live in the country's fourth-largest city. And just as these East Bay counties are very different from the rest of the San Francisco Bay Area, the *East Bay Express* is a very different paper. From the international populations that make Oakland and Richmond so dynamic, to the ideological diversity that separates Berkeley from Walnut Creek, our readers are united by their love of a region that is second to nowhere in beauty, livability, intellectual firepower and cosmopolitan charm.

Every week, the *Express* provides these well-educated world travelers the only medium dedicated exclusively to them. From our authoritative cover stories, to our in-depth local reporting, arts and dining coverage, to the area's most comprehensive weekly calendar, the *East Bay Express* has been this vibrant region's leading voice since 1978.

## A COMMITMENT TO OUR INDIES

In addition to our commitment to quality reporting, the *East Bay Express* is also a national leader in the localization movement, supporting independent businesses and artists and spreading the word about why it's important to do so. Currently, the East Bay Express is featuring a weekly "Think Indie" full-page ad campaign highlighting locally-owned businesses. The *Express* is also active in supporting Oakland Grown, the Sustainable Business Alliance, and Buy Local Berkeley through donated ads, sponsorships, partnerships, and volunteer time. As an independent business based in Oakland, the *Express* is highly active in the business community: banks locally, donates to numerous local nonprofits, and chooses local indie vendors when purchasing. The East Bay Express is a proud partner in producing the 5th Annual Oakland Indie Awards.



View the *East Bay Express* Art Rack installation by Eddie at the Oakland Indie Awards.

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& Locally Owned

**EAST BAY EXPRESS**
620 3rd Street Oakland, CA 94607

# INDIE AWARDS 2011 CATEGORIES

To be eligible for an Indie Award a nominee must be an Oakland based for profit locally-owned independent business or an artist that lives or has a studio in Oakland. Previous winners must wait four years before being eligible again

## OAKLAND SOUL

represents the soul the essence and the style of Oakland, this business or artist embraces diversity & creativity, has confidence in their individuality helps their brothers & sisters, and has no pretensions

## RIPPLE EFFECT

supports other local businesses and artists by "shopping local" for their supplies and services, creating an economic ripple effect as money circulates within the community

## INNOVATIVE NEWBIE

a new business or artist that opened in the last three years that excites and inspires you because of a creative new idea, perspective, or solution they are sharing with the world

## GREENIE

our environmental hero, immersed in sustainable practices, such as creating or selling new items from used materials, using energy efficient appliances, composting, reducing usage of toxic products or reducing waste

## SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE ROCKSTAR

the socially-responsible rockstar incorporates positive social change into their mission operations, or measures of success. They help people who are in need, and are helping to create a better world where people are no longer in need They may do this through their products and services, their operations and employee practices, by giving back to communities through time or money or a million other ways!

## PILLAR

is an Oakland business or artist that has been around forever, persevering through the good and the bad, mentoring newbies, preserving our city's history the artist everyone loves, or the classic spot "you have to go to" when visitors come to town

## INDIE AWARDS 2011 JUDGES

**Annalee Allen**
City of Oakland /
Oakland Walking Tours

**Chaeda Jones**
Financial Wellness
Center

**Dorothy Lazard**
Oakland Public Library

**Ecke Schneider**
A Better Oakland

**Jill Kunishima**
Lincoln Child Center

**Jody Colley**
East Bay Express

**Jose Corona**
Inner City Advisors

**Lisa Forti**
Urban Strategies Council

**Margo Dunlap**
Pro Arts

**Mark Gagliardi**
City of Oakland
Environmental Services

**Maurice McCook**
Wall Street Wizards
(Youth Judge)

**Melissa Rosengard**
Chabot Space and
Science Center

**Meritt Sher**
Metrovation

**Mike Davis**
Organic Partners, Inc.

**Rebecca Saltzman**
Living In the O

**Samee Roberts**
City of Oakland Cultural
Arts and Marketing

**Selma Taylor**
California Resources &
Training

## 2011 OAKLAND SOUL NOMINEES

17 Jewels Salon and Spa
Afro Urbanites
Alan Leon
Alfonso Dominguez
Alma Desnuda
Alpha Spectrum Productions
Bar 355
Bay Area Bikes
Bike Man Den (Dan Woloz)
Blue Moon Productions / Rebecca Faiola
Brian Howard King
Brown Couch Cafe
Brown Sugar Kitchen
Bunnywarez
Caldecott Properties
California Flight Project (Jerry J)
Cansafis Foote
Carol Ponsaran
Chamberz Studios
Arek Bryant
Champa Garden
Charlotte Kubiak
Community Awareness Media
Corey Action
Debi Mason, Storyteller
Desa Arts
DJ PLATURN
Ellen Dreibelbis
Entrez! Open House
Eric Murphy
Everett & Jones at Jack London Square
Farmer Joe's Marketplace (Diana and Joe Tam)
Favianna Rodriguez
Feelmore 510/ Nenna Joiner
fiftyseven-thirtythree
First Impression Hair Design
Fox Theater
Funky Soul Stop Record Store
Garden Hortica
Give Something Back Office Supplies
Grand Tavern
Hesternet Productions Karen Hester
Hibiscus Restaurant
Homeroom
Hyim
Ise Lyfe / Lyfe Productives
Jack Eastgate of Fiji Designs
Jefferson Ross
Junebug's Towing and Recovery
Kids and Dance and Theatre Arts
Kinetic Arts Center
Krista Smith
Kristen Caven
Kymberly Jackson
La Borinquena
Laurel Book Store
Layover Bar
Leyder Chapman, aka "Des Four"
Linden Street Brewery
Luka's Taproom
M&R Janitorial and Handyman Svcs.
Mandela Foods Co-Op
Mary Lonergan
Mercury 20 Gallery
Metrovation
Michael Torres
Mignonne Décor / Johnelle Mancha
Moxie Metal
NIMBY
Oakland Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine Clinic
Oakland Local / Susan Mernit
Only in Oakland
Pamela Merery Dernham

ws and Claws
nelope
án
igue Diaz Artist/Jeweler
B. Morris III
a1
ck Paper Scissors
llective
rlet City Coffee Roasting
mar Bar & Lounge
nya Richardson
uley Vegan
ce Monkey
al Massey
abusi/ Sandra Conde
h Liminal
e Lovelight Blues Band
e Oakland Poetry Slam
e Rare Bird
e Rising Loafer Cafe
d Bakery (Maria
stelumendi)
cy Watson
dell Music
N26

### 011 INNOVATIVE EWBIE NOMINEES

erb for Keeping Warm
o Urbanites
Sa-Ti Tyehimba-Ford
ty Belle Clothing
355
y Leaf Restaurant
er Revolution
ycle Coffee
e Man Dan (Dan Woloz)
ck diamonds shining
ck Like Me
rk to the Roots Ventures
nnywarez
st back
lifornia Flight Project
rol Ponseran
rrud Cellars
ss 5 Tax
rtis Jermany / GZ Photoz
licious Nutritious
on Evans/ RMG Radio.org
Dress. Luxury Attire on Loan
Eat Real Festival/ Susan Coss
Encuentro Cafe and Wine Bar
Energy Matters Acupuncture and Qigong
Entrez! Open House
Feelmore 510/ Nenna Joiner
Food Blog / Tarabud
Food!
Garden Hortica
Good Chemistry Bakery
Holistic Veterinary Care
Homeroom
Jen Pearson Designs
KaMasaJei BioDynamics & Massage
Kara Joslyn
KIJUI
Kinetic Arts Center
Kollective Mobile
Kymberly Jackson
Layover Bar
Lin Jia Asian Kitchen
Linden Street Brewery
Lost Road Entertainment
Mahogany Roots
Mandela Foods Cooperative
Michele Bunker Alberts
Monaghan's On the Hill
Nohi Kids
North Social
Oakland Acupuncture & Integrative Medicine Clinic
Oakland Venue Management
PieTissene
Puralytics
Rate Cred
Revolution Foods
Scarlet City Coffee Roasting
Scream Sorbet
Somar Bar & Lounge
Souley Vegan
Steep Hill Lab
Team Printshop
Tech Liminal
Top Ten Social
Winou Wakeyo

### 2011 SOCIALLY-RESPONSIBLE ROCKSTAR NOMINEES

100% Pure
Aditi
Alma Desnuda
Bike Man Dan
Blue Moon Productions
bust back
California Flight Project
Charlie Spangler (RocknCowboy)
Comet Skateboards
Concessions Management Group
Design Action Center
Religazine Media Group / Dion Evans/ RMG Radio.org
Edel Orantes
Entrez!
Gerald Reyes Oakland Leaf and ARISE High School
Give Something Back
Hope Solutions Merchant Services
Ise Lyfe / Lyfe Productions
Delicious Skin Jay Ento
Karen's Flowers
Kymberly Jackson
La Farine Bakery / Stan Dodson
Larsen Shores Architects
Laura Van Duren
The Layover Bar
Linden Street Brewery
Livescribe
Mandela Foods Cooperative
Mangosteen / Gabrielle Lessard
Rising Loafer Cafe and Bakery / Maria Gastelumendi
Michele Bunker-Alberts and Mimi Solomon
Nano-tex
Oakland Local / Susan Mernit
Oakland Venue Management
One Small Step
Reed Brothers Security
Scarlet City Coffee Roasting
Serrahna
Sitcom
Broken Pretzel Music / Robert Temple
Top Ten Social

### 2011 PILLAR NOMINEES

Andres Cisneros-Galindo
Arizmendi Bakery
Bay Wolf Restaurant
Bill Silveira
Blue Heron Catering
bust back
Café Van Kleef
Cascos Martial Arts
El Huarache Azteca Restaurant
Encuentro Cafe and Wine Bar
Entrez! Open House
Farmer Joe's Marketplace (Diana and Joe Tam)
Frana Inc
Give Something Back Office Supplies
Hieroglyphics Imperium
Holistic Veterinary Care
Ise Lyfe / Lyfe Productives
Johansson Projects
Kristen Caven
Kymberly Jackson
La Borinquena
Lady Bianca
Layover Bar
Mama Buzz Cafe
Mark Bullwinkle
Montclair Veterinary Hospital
Nina Serrano
Paws and Claws
Pegasus Books
Pizzaiolo / Boot N Shoe Service
Quinn's Lighthouse
Reed Brothers Security
Revolution Cafe
Rod Dibble
Sagrada Sacred Arts
Showin Out Hair Salon & Boutique
SUKI O'KANE
Taste of Denmark

### 2011 RIPPLE EFFECT NOMINEES

Blue Moon Productions / Rebecca Fatole
Bunnywarez
Cafe 504
California Flight Project
CB Dahl
Chop Bar
Disco Volante
Eat Real Festival/ Susan Coss
Edible East Bay
Emani Inc
Entrez! Open House
Homeroom
Ise Lyfe
Karen's Flowers
Kymberly Jackson
La Farine Bakery / Stan Dodson
Laurel Book Store
Layover Bar
Little Paper Monkeys
Livescribe
Lost Road Entertainment
Mandela Foods Co-Op
Moxie Metal
Nano-tex
Numi Tea (Ahmed and Reem Rahim)
Oakland Venue Management
Penelope
PS Print
SCOUT
Serrahna
Sitcom
Souley Vegan
Tech Liminal
Top Ten Social

### 2011 GREENIE NOMINEES

100% Pure
Actual Cafe
Bike Man Dan (Dan Woloz)
Bird vs. Bird (Bess Petty)
Blue Heron Catering
Design Action Collective
Ecologic Brands, Inc.
Entrez! Open House
Gingerleaf Floral
Greenewall
Jamie Valda
KIJUI
King Bag Company
Kymberly Jackson
Leah Virsik
Livescribe
Mandela Foods Co-Op
Mary V Marsh
Michele Bunker-Alberts
Mignonne Décor (Johnelle Mancha)
Nano-tex
One Small Step
Peek a Green
Phat Beets Market
Premier Organics/ Artisana Foods
Sitcom
Taco Grill
The ReUse People
The Rising Loafer Cafe and Bakery (Maria Gastelumendi)
Wendel Rosen Black & Dean LLP

Note: Not all nominees were eligible. See criteria on page 4.

# GET INSPIRATION, LEARN THE BENEFITS, AND FIND EASY STEPS FOR MOVING YOUR MONEY

## SHOP AT INDIES

1 KEEP MONEY IN THE COMMUNITY

2 CREATE MORE JOBS

3 KEEP CITIES COOL AND HIP

4. REDUCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

5 INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY

6 GET BETTER SERVICE

7 PUT YOUR TAXES TO GOOD USE

8. CREATE MORE CHOICE

9 ENCOURAGE PROSPERITY

10. MAKE YOUR CITY A UNIQUE DESTINATION

WWW.OAKLANDUNWRAPPED.ORG | WWW.OAKLANDGROWN.ORG

## BANK CONSCIOUSLY

COMMUNITY BANKING INITIATIVE BY THE INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF RELIANCE
HTTP://WWW.NEWRULES.ORG/BANKING

### TOP 5 REASONS TO CHOOSE A COMMUNITY BANK OR CREDIT UNION FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF RELIANCE

1 Get the Same Services at Lower Cost
2 Put Your Money to Work Growing Your Local Economy
3 Keep Decision-Making Local
4 Back Institutions that Share a Commitment to Your Community
5 Support Productive Investment, Not Gambling

### SIMPLE STEPS TO MOVE YOUR CHECKING ACCOUNT
FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL SELF RELIANCE

1 Open Your New Account
2 Order New Checks and an ATM/Debit Card
3 Ask Your Employer to Reroute Your Direct Deposit
4. Contact Companies that Direct Debit Your Account
5 Set-up Online Bill Paying for Your New Account
6. Close Your Old Account
7 Enjoy your new local banking relationship!

### THE CONTEST – "WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES?"

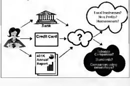
You know that WE are passionate about supporting local businesses and artists. Now, we want to hear from YOU! Stop by the One PacificCoast Bank exhibitor booth and share your thoughts with us – and you just might win a fabulous local prize! Get details at the booth!

## INVEST CONSCIOUSLY

Most retirement and investment options offer at least a few socially responsible choices. Check on your 401k or retirement fund if you have one Does your provider offer socially responsible investments? What is your money supporting right now? Talk to local financial advisors who specialize in socially responsible investing – the Bay Area has several They can help you tailor your investing to match your values. For example there are funds that can stay in the state to invest locally invest in socially-responsible businesses, focus on environmental causes, align with your faith, and more

Find East Bay socially responsible financial advisors from the Bay Area Green Business Program www.greenbiz.ca.gov/ShopGreenAC.html

Consider Investing in a Community Loan Fund or Venture Capital Fund
These community funds support the revitalization of low income communities These are funds that allow people to make investments in local activities that contribute to a healthy local economy such as businesses that create jobs in the community or affordable housing initiatives. A type of socially responsible investing, but specific to community development. More info at www.communityinvest.org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Banks, lenders and investors re-invest our money somewhere...
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Credit Card
401K Annual Report
?
Local businesses? Non Profits? Homeowners?
Tobacco Companies? Slumlords? Companies using sweatshops?

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THE OAKLAND INDIE AWARDS IS A PROGRAM OF ONE PACIFICCOAST FOUNDATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EAST BAY EXPRESS

**EAST BAY EXPRESS**

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**Pete Higgins & Leslie Magid**

**Dan Carrol & Stasia Dbremskey**

### CATALYST

California Waste Solutions

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City of Oakland

First Solar

the Y

### GOOD NEIGHBOR

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**East Bay Community Foundation**

### FRIEND

**fiftyseven-thirtythree**
**Give Something Back**
**James and the Giant Cupcake**
**Nancy Neel**
**Trumer Pils**

### FOOD AND DRINK AT THE 2011 INDIES

BOOZE

**Urban Legend Cellars**
**Trumer Pils**
**Linden Street**

FOOD

**Bay Leaf Restaurant**
Crawfish bisque Pickled Beets Whipped Yams

**Grilled Cheese Guy**
Grilled Cheese and Soup Shots

**La Borinquena**
Tamale Bites, Chips & Salsa, Chorizo Bean Dip

**Trattoria Laurellinos**
Fagioli with Pork, Smoked Sausage and White Beans

**Ghazal Indian Cuisine**
Chicken Pakora Aloo Tikki, and Veggie Samosas

**Asmara**
Ethiopian Veggie Dishes and Injera

**AMBA**
A Selection of Tasty Hummus Dips with Pitas

**Pupusaria Lupita**
Pupusas

**Lin Jia Asian Kitchen**
Garden Spring Roll with Peanut Sauce Braised Pork Belly

**Amphora**
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KITCHEN SINK

# Burgers in Berkeley

Plus the end of an era at Chez Panisse, new grocery stores in Oakland, brunch at Plum, and more

By Ellen Cushing

Downtown Berkeley will soon be home to a fast-casual burger joint. Owner **Hugh Groman**, a Berkeley-based chef and caterer, is set to open **Phil's Sliders** in the space vacated by **New China Express** at 2024 Shattuck Avenue. Groman, who named the restaurant after his father, said he's keeping the menu small and simple: "I wanted to create a place that used what I've learned in the food business to create something really, really simple," he said. The thirty-seat restaurant's menu will, of course, focus around the eponymous sliders: $2 mini burgers that Groman's been making for years with his catering business and which he says are "really, really good." Beyond that, Phil's will offer a vegetarian portabella slider, tater tot-esque potato puffs, a poppy-seed coleslaw with a vegan option, and a rotating menu of house-made sodas and baked goods. All the produce will be organic, and the beef will come from Marin Sun Farms. Phil's will be open until midnight Thursday through Saturday, making it a much-needed addition to downtown Berkeley's late-night dining offerings, and Groman said he's aiming to start service in early June.

## Chez Panisse Chef Stepping Down

Longtime **Chez Panisse** chef **David Tanis** will be leaving the uber-famous restaurant later this year to write a food column for *The New York Times*. Tanis, who's been working at Chez Panisse for about 25 years, now splits his time between Berkeley and Paris, swapping six-month postings as the restaurant's head chef with **Jean-Pierre Moullé**. After his current such stint, he'll leave for good. At press time, **Alice Waters** had yet to announce a replacement for Tanis.

## Table Scraps

**Kroger**-owned grocery chain **Foods Co.** will soon start construction on three new supermarkets, all in historically underserved Oakland neighborhoods. The first, a 75,000-square-footer in East Oakland's Foothill Square Shopping Center, is set to open early next year; the other two — one in West Oakland, and another at the corner of 66th Avenue and San Leandro Street near the Oakland Coliseum — will follow. … Berkeley's **eVe** has revamped its patio space just in time for summer. … Oakland's **Plum** debuted its weekend brunch this Saturday. … And, finally, the folks behind **Outside Lands** announced the three-day festival's food and drink lineup earlier this week. There'll be nearly forty local restaurants selling food of various cuisines, and about thirty vintners will be selling wine. The festival goes down August 12-14 in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

# FOOD & WINE

## CULINARY & WINE

[illegible]

Gardens, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, produce.

## FARMERS' MARKETS

[illegible]

## R&C

[illegible]

## PICK

### Tour de Fair

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**Uncle Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish** 614 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-9200 (Barbecue) $-$$

## OAKLAND-EAST

**Da Lat** 1500 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-9000 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

**Cafe Hoang Restaurant** 707 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-444-2500. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

**Cambodia Cambio** 3102 8th Ave., Oakland, 510-338-4818 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

**El Centenario** 4806 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8880 (Mexican) $-$$

**Everett & Jones (Barbeque)** 2676 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-533-0900. (Barbecue) $$

**Full House Cafe** 3719 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-842-2200. (American/Diner) $

**El Huarache Azteca** 3842 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-2395 (Mexican) $

**Huong Que Cafe** 1228 7th Ave., Oakland, 510-835-8488. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

**La Estrellita Cafe** 446 E. 12th St., Oakland, 510-465-1168 (Mexican/Sports Bars) $$

**Mariscos La Costa** 3625 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-9506 (Mexican) $

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**Nieves Cinco de Mayo** 3340 #2 E. 12th St., Oakland 510-533-8080 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

**Old Weang Ping Village** 8517 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland 510-433-8771 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

**Otaez Restaurant** 3872 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-0969 (Mexican) $-$$

**Phnom Penh House** 3412 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland, 510-482-8880 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

**Tacos El Sol** Corner of International Blvd and High St., Oakland, no phone. (Mexican) $

**Tanjia** 4905 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, 510-653-8691. (African/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$

**Taqueria Guadalajara** 3400 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-4260 (Mexican) $

**Taqueria Guadalajara** 3829 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-8488. (Barbecue/Mexican) $

**Taqueria San Jose** 3433 International Blvd., Oakland 510-533-8748. (Mexican) $

**Taqueria Sinaloa** 2138 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-535-1206 (Mexican) $

**La Piñata No. 4** 3419 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-532-1105. (Mexican) $

## OAKLAND-PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

**Bacheesos** 4395 Piedmont Ave #2, Oakland, 510-601-0985. (Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches/Wine Bar) $$$

**The Alley** 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505. (Bars & Clubs/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Steak House) $$

**Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine** (Saturday Grand Lake Farmers Market, Oakland, 415-412-6100 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers** 4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7180. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

**Bay Wolf Cafe and Restaurant** 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/New American) $$$

**Bellanico** 4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-1180. (Italian/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$

**Blackberry Bistro** 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-0535. (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

**Boot and Shoe Service** 3308 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-763-2668. (Pizza/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

**Camino** 3917 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5035. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

**Cesar Piedmont** 4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1200. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

**Coach Sushi** 532 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-1866. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

**Dopo** 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

**Flavors of India** 3412 La Salle Ave. Suite 2, Oakland, 510-339-0553. (Indian/Pakistani)

**Kebabs of India** 3275 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-268-8757 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

**House Home** 3891 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-4644 (American/Afghan/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/New American) $$$

**Holy Land** 677 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535. (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $

**Lanesplitter Pizza to Go** 536 Lake Park Ave., Oakland, 510-893-4591. (Pizza) $

**Lo Coco's Restaurant** 4270 Piedmont Ave, Oakland, 510-652-6222. (Italian/Pizza) $$

**Mesob (Ethiopian) Restaurant** 4301 Piedmont Ave. Oakland, 510-428-1122. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $

**Mezze** 3407 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-2500. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

**Prime Spot Bar & Grill** 3417 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-268-1841. (Steak House) $$$

**Spettro** 3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-451-1798. (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$

**Tropix** 3814 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2444. (Caribbean) $$

**Z Cafe and Bar** 3138 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2900. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Bars & Clubs) $$

**Zatis** 4001 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-658-8210. (California Cuisine/Italian/Greek/Fusion) $$$

**Zza's Gourmet** 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124. (Italian/Pizza) $$

## OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

**Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers** 5819 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0444. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

**Cactus Taqueria** 5642 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-6180. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

**Enoteca Oakland** 5474 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-4776. (Italian/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$

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**Khana Peena** 5316 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3200. (Indian/Pakistani) $$

**Lake Anza** Wildcat Canyon and Grizzly Peak Roads, Berkeley, 888-327-2757. (Parks/Burgers/Sandwiches/Coffeehouses/Deli/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

**Marica** 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-985-8388. (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$

**Garibaldis on College** 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000. (Italian) $$$

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**Nan Yang** 6048 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3298. (Southeast Asian) $$

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**Oliveto** 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

**Oliveto Cafe** 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356. (Italian/Coffeehouses) $$

**Shoo Shoo** 6211 Bangkok Ave., Oakland, 510-420-1433. (Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

**Pizzetta** 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-1601. (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

**Shangri-La Vegan Restaurant** 4001 Linden St., Oakland, 510-547-1840. (Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Soi4 Bangkok Eatery** 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-0889. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

**Oakland** 6311 College Ave., Oakland, 510-664-0300. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/California Cuisine/French/Greek/Turkish/Italian) $$$

**Top dog** 5100 Broadway, Oakland, 510-601-1181. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

**Uzen** 5415 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-7753. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

**Wood Tavern** 6011 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6607. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

**Zachary's Chicago Pizza** 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385. (Pizza) $-$$

## OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

**Addis Ethiopian Restaurant** 5130 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3456. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

**Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine** Sunday Temescal Farmers Market, Oakland, 415-412-6100. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

**Aunt Mary's Cafe** 4640 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-9227. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

**Bakesale Betty** 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1213. (Bakery/Coffeehouses) $-$$

**Barlata** 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0678. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bars) $$$

**Burma Superstar** 4721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2900. (Southeast Asian) $$

**Casserole House** 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-547-8000. (Korean) $

**Doña Tomás** 5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0522. (Mexican/California Cuisine/Southwestern) $$$

**Genova Delicatessen and Ravioli** 5095 Telegraph Ave. Building A, Oakland, 510-652-7401. (Deli/Italian) $

**Homeroom** 400 40th St., Oakland, 510-597-0400. (New American) $

**Kang Tong Dong** 4132 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2908. (Korean) $$

**Koryo Sushi** 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-0801. (Japanese/Sushi) $$

**Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue** 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6007. (Korean) $$

**Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub** 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350. (Pizza/Bars & Clubs) $

**Mama's Royal Cafe** 4012 Broadway, Oakland, 510-547-7600. (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $

**The Mixing Bowl** 4820 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5858. (California Cuisine/Coffeehouses) $$

**Nomad Cafe** 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344. (Coffeehouses/Organic/Sustainable/Breakfast/Brunch/Performance Venues) $

**Ohgane Korean Restaurant** 3915 Broadway, Oakland, 510-594-8300. (Korean) $-$$$

**Oakland B.B.Q. House Korean Plaza** 5101 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5838. (Korean) $-$$

**Phat Matt's BBQ** 3415 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-817-7294. (Barbecue/Texan/Burgers/Sandwiches/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

**Pizzaiolo** 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

**Pyung Chang Tofu House** 4701 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-9040. (Korean/Southeast Asian) $$

**S&S House** 4923 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-654-5504. (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $

**Seoul Gom Tang** 3801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-597-0880. (Korean) $

**Yo Yo Za Zang** 3810 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2288. (Chinese/Korean) $

## TRI-VALLEY

**Grill & Tapa House** 7400 San Ramon Rd., Dublin, 925-833-9900. (Brazilian/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$

**Zachary's Chicago Pizza** 3110 Crow Canyon Pl. Suite D, San Ramon, 925-244-1222. (Pizza) $-$$

## WALNUT CREEK

**Breads of India** 1358 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7684. (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

**Boyok** 1502 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-932-8888. (Vietnamese) $$

# MOVIES

# EVERYTHING JUST WENT

Trouble in suburbia: *Hesher* and *Everything Must Go*

By Kelly Vance

Joseph Gordon-Levitt is perfect as seedy, rowdy, raunchy Hesher.

Right from the start we can see that *Hesher* is going to be different. Blond-haired T.J. (**Devin Brochu**), a boy of about ten, is racing down the street on his bike as if the devil were breathing down his neck. The camera follows him from a very low angle, swerving and careening, and the shots are cut together for maximum tension. In most mainstream movies about preteen life, a sequence of a kid on a bicycle, even a kid as agitated as T.J. seems to be, is filmed conventionally and has an aura of safe routine about it. T.J.'s reckless ride, on the other hand, looks dangerous as hell — we expect the kid to be splattered before we even get to know him.

That's a fitting introduction to a young man in trouble. T.J. has a right to be upset. His mother has recently been killed in an auto accident; his father Paul (**Rainn Wilson**, purveyor of losers extraordinaire) has descended into a near-catatonic state of grief; and father and son have moved in with Grandma Madeleine (**Piper Laurie**) in her grotesque, tchotchke-strewn tract house, located in a horrible alt universe one degree away from the most depressing parts of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Dad sleeps all day. Grandma self-medicates while preparing ghastly meals, and young T.J. practices creative road rage as an emotional outlet. But then he meets someone even angrier than he is.

Enter Hesher (**Joseph Gordon-Levitt**), the unfinished-home squatter T.J. interrupts while making his rounds and who then, tit for tat, abruptly moves in with the kid and his family, uninvited and full of piss, gobbling their mashed potatoes and watching their cartoons. T.J. is the only one who seems to notice he's there.

Hesher is the type of guy we've all seen sprawled under freeway overpasses and hanging around convenience-store parking lots — the long-greasy-haired stoner-tweaker-hesher with jailhouse tats and bodily fluids caked all his jeans, a fully fried shitbird loudly cross-examining the universe at his own private courtroom trial. A heavy metal soundtrack magically follows him wherever he goes. And where he's going right now is into the lives of T.J. and his mournful family, to help them snap out of it.

**Hesher**
Directed by Spencer Susser. With Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Devin Brochu. Opens Friday.

**Everything Must Go**
Directed by Dan Rush. With Will Ferrell and Rebecca Hall. Opens Friday.

Director/co-screenwriter **Spencer Susser** has a definite feel for Hesher and T.J.'s little corner of the world. The American-based Susser belongs to the Australian filmmaking consortium **Blue-Tongue Films** alongside such up-and-coming creators as Nash Edgerton (*The Square*), Kieran Darcy-Smith (*Say Nothing*), and David Michôd (*Animal Kingdom*). The Blue-Tongue group is renowned for its intelligent approach to violent genre projects, and *Hesher* — with a screenplay by Susser and Michôd from a story by **Brian Charles Frank** — certainly fits the mold, with the critical Southern California difference.

If Susser & Co. had set it in, say, the suburbs of Sydney, American audiences would have an excuse to tune it out as a foreign art film masquerading as an indie shocker. No such sales resistance when it's shot on location in LA and San Bernardino County (Ontario and environs). All the cultural details ring depressingly true, from the Transformational Grief Group meetings to the off-brand grocery store Charlie's Food Town to the dirty brown smog-toned color scheme. The time frame is the Eternal Seventies, à la *Boogie Nights* or *Repo Man*. **John Carroll Lynch**, everyone's favorite unhelpful clerk, puts the cherry on top of the misery sundae as the auto salesman T.J. needs to talk to.

Gordon-Levitt is perfect as rowdy, rowdy, raunchy Hesher, a reasonable facsimile of [illegible] or *Drop Dead Fred*. Newcomer Brochu (*In the Valley of Elah*) manages a tough role convincingly. Wilson and Ms. Laurie, of course, establish themselves instantly with the camera's first glance at their faces. But, sad to say, **Natalie Portman** is now so thoroughly overexposed that her role as T.J.'s grownup friend is meaningless, in the same ho-hum class as the presence of the requisite bully (**Brendan Hill**). We could do without all the wrecked-car business as well — too maudlin by half, even if it gives character actor Lynch a juicy part. T.J. has no use for bullies or sympathetic older sisters or tearful junkyard farewells. He needs more Metallica and a real live imaginary best friend to fire up the bong and scatter the ashes.

Is *Everything Must Go* another Recession Special? Not exactly. The image of newly fired salesman Nick Halsey (**Will Ferrell**) sitting in his La-Z-Boy on his suburban front lawn, surrounded by his discarded personal effects, may seem at first like the intro to a tearjerker, but for us it brought to mind Peter Menzel's photo book *Material World: A Global Family Portrait*.

In that thought-provoking 1994 volume, families around the world were asked to pile all their worldly possessions in front of their homes and pose for a photo with them. The African family from Mali owned a few pots, a bicycle, a radio, and a blanket. Sure enough, the American family's assembled household items completely filled a cul-de-sac and resembled inventory day at the Wal-Mart.

Remember that as the tale of Nick Halsey unwinds. Turns out he was fired because of his chronic drinking, not because of the economy. As his bad day continues, he arrives home to find that his wife has thrown out his stuff, changed the locks on the doors, frozen all the bank and credit card accounts, and left town. Nick has just enough pocket money for two six-packs of beer. He is joined by another cast-off character, Kenny Loftus (nicely played by **Christopher Jordan Wallace**), the young son of a cleaning woman, who functions as (sniffle) the son that selfish, drunken Nick never had.

Stop me if you've heard this one before, but Nick's front lawn set-up continues with timely intrusions by a third lonely person, the attractive newcomer across the street (**Rebecca Hall**), and Nick's former AA sponsor, a local police detective (**Michael Peña**). Just in case we're worried that Nick isn't going to come out of all this smelling like a rose, he looks up a former high school girlfriend played by **Laura Dern** — she's available and smiley. But first there's Nick's chemical dependency and self-pity to deal with. That takes about a half hour. The best that can be said about *Everything Must Go* is that it's slightly less nauseating than *The Boxer*. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

# MOVIES & THEATERS

*To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editorial@eastbayexpress.com.*

## OPENING

**Bridesmaids** Judd Apatow-produced [illegible] a group of bridesmaids on a pre-wedding trip to Vegas. Directed by Paul Feig, written by Annie Mumolo and Kristen Wiig, and starring Wiig, Maya Rudolph, and Rose Byrne. (124 min.) [illegible]

**Everything Must Go** [illegible] from his job, locked out of his home by his breakup-minded wife, with all his possessions sitting on his suburban front lawn, Will Ferrell has the playing field to himself in this adaptation of a Raymond Carver short story. So then why do we look at our watch every five minutes? It's a [illegible] with a lonely [illegible]. There's never the slightest doubt that Ferrell's would-be loser Nick Halsey is going to come out of it a winner [illegible] with the friendly faces of Rebecca Hall, Christopher Jordan Wallace, Michael Peña, and Laura Dern around. Director/adaptor Dan Rush handles the [illegible] has the final sitcom [illegible], so Ferrell doesn't exert himself unduly. They should sell [illegible] for this turkey at yard sales. (96 min.) (K.V.) (CA, PM)

**Hesher** Lonely kid gets mentored by stoner freak squatter. Prepare to laugh. Director Spencer Susser, with help from co-writer and Blue-Tongue Films stablemate David Michôd (*Animal Kingdom*), turns a tearful situation inside out with the story of eleven-year-old T.J. (Devin Brochu) and his new live-in life coach Hesher (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), who helps the kid get over the trauma of his mother's death, the disintegration of his family, and their [illegible] demons, by lighting up a bong and smashing [illegible]. Best of the rest of the [illegible]: Natalie Portman as T.J.'s other adult friend, Rainn Wilson as his grief-paralyzed dad, Brendan Hill as the bully [illegible]. Although Piper Laurie excels as T.J.'s pixilated grandma, Gordon-Levitt's [illegible] presence [illegible] gives his [illegible] foul-mouthed, [illegible] Hesher [illegible] 21st-century version of the tramp from Jean Renoir's *Boudu Saved from Drowning*. (110 min.) (K.V.) (CA [illegible])

**Showtimes Online**
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**Incendies** Emotionally powerful, positively structured drama shows what happens when Jeanne and Simon Marwan, a grown pair of Montreal twins (Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin and Maxim Gaudette), go to an unnamed Middle East country (a Lebanese flag is flying) to unravel, via flashback, what happened to their late mother Nawal (Lubna Azabal). It's a magnetic presentation, [illegible] during that country's brutal civil war in the 1970s. The sorrow-drenched scenario is the work of playwright Wajdi Mouawad, brilliantly adapted by Director Denis Villeneuve and set in [illegible] Jordanian locations where we can feel the hot violence of the air in the last row of a crowded theater. Even Montreal looks depleted. Costarring Rémy Girard and Abdelghafour Elaaziz. (130 min.) (K.V.) [illegible]

**Nostalgia for the Light** The ultra-dry Atacama Desert in northern Chile attracts astronomers from all over the world because of its clear air — but, sharing the atmosphere with the Landmark are rela-

### Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Landmark Albany; **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** [illegible]; **BB** = Cinemark Blackhawk; **BP** = [illegible]; **BS** = AMC Bay Street; **CA** = Landmark California; **CAPH** = [illegible]; **CB** = Century Berkeley? [illegible]; **CCC** = Contra Costa Cinemas; **CCPH** = [illegible]; **CH** = Century Hilltop; **CHY** = [illegible]; **CN** = Cinedome Newark; **CNC** = Regal Crow Canyon; **CSS** = [illegible]; **CUC** = Century Union City; **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek; **EW** = AMC Deer Valley; **GL** = [illegible]; **JL** = Regal Jack London; **NB** = [illegible]; **OR** = Orinda; **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive; **PM** = Landmark Piedmont; **RCC** = [illegible]; **RDC** = [illegible]; **RH** = Regal Hacienda; **RT** = [illegible]; **SL** = Landmark Shattuck; **UAB** = UA Berkeley; **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WWS** = [illegible]

M&T

than of any one of that country's military junta circa 1970s, who sold search for the bones of the "disappeared" in the hard, barren earth. This moving documentary by Chilean otherwise Patricio Guzmán (The Battle of Chile) pursues a philosophical line along about the shared visions of astronomers and archaeologists, but [illegible] Guzmán's political investigation at the halfway mark. [illegible] seems to overpower even the stars. (90 min.) (KS)

## ONGOING

**African Cats** Nature doc about [illegible] African cats [illegible] on the savanna. Directed by Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey and narrated by Samuel L. Jackson. BS, CWC, CB, CAPH, CUC, RH

**Atlas Shrugged: Part 1** Film adaptation of the first part of Ayn Rand's Reagan-dystopian novel/libertarian bible. Directed by Paul Johansson; written by Brian Patrick O'Toole; and starring Taylor Schilling and Grant Bowler. CAPH

**Bill Cunningham New York** The title photographer invented [illegible] in-the-street fashion photo essay with his New York Times column "On the Street," and this delightful documentary shows the [illegible] world from his bicycle and its [illegible] working style, of his cubbyhole apartment at Carnegie Hall to the small screens of the [illegible] of Anna Wintour and Tom Wolfe [illegible] talking heads [illegible] Cunningham's [illegible] pursuit of Beauty. At age eighty the tireless chronicler works hours that would [illegible] younger men, but we get the impression that's what he lives for. [illegible] by Richard Press. (84 min.) (KV)

**Certified Copy** The [illegible] on acting [illegible] in a small town in Tuscany, a visiting British art expert named James (William Shimell) meets a French woman named [illegible] who runs an art gallery (Juliette Binoche), and they [illegible] off for some sightseeing. [illegible] through the afternoon [illegible] begins pretending, to others at first but then to James [illegible] that she and James are a fifteen-year married couple with [illegible] the [illegible] along, up to a point. It's another Abbas Kiarostami [illegible] investigating the questions of [illegible] and "authentic" [illegible] as long as your patience holds. It's mildly diverting. Looks like something of an [illegible] for the Iranian [illegible] writer-director of White Balloon and Taste of Cherry. (106 min.) (KV) AC

**The Conspirator** A Civil War drama, in 2011. Robert Redford and the American Film Company [illegible] and the case of Mary Surratt (played by Robin Wright), the [illegible] about [illegible] [illegible] accused of conspiring to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865. The [illegible] Surratt, a Confederate sympathizer and suspected confidante of the accused John Wilkes Booth (Toby Kebbell), is also a Roman Catholic. And as [illegible] all-male military tribunal [illegible] point [illegible] on the [illegible] attorney (James McAvoy) [illegible] who defends her. Their [illegible] which [illegible] have been the film's emotional [illegible]. Meanwhile [illegible] Kevin Kline, Danny Huston, Tom Wilkinson, and Colm Meaney [illegible] as the [illegible] government [illegible] whose chief objective is to hang the [illegible] as quickly as possible and restore order. Is it an allegory for Guantánamo and the war on terror? Perhaps. But this old-fashioned history drama is fully capable of standing alone. [illegible] screenplay by James D. Solomon, adapted from a story he wrote with Gregory Bernstein. (123 min.) (KV) CWC, CAPH, PCC, UA

**Showtimes Online**

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**Dinosaurs Alive!** From the Triassic to the Cretaceous, [illegible] are [illegible] by paleontologists and [illegible] in [illegible] CGI. CBC

**The Double Hour** [illegible] romantic thriller about an [illegible] (Ksenia Rappoport) who falls for a Slovenian [illegible] (Filippo Timi) [illegible] [illegible] Directed by Giuseppe Capotondi and written by [illegible] Ludovica Rampoldi, Stefano Sardo. (102 min.) AL

**Dylan Dog: Dead of Night** Action-horror comedy [illegible] a New Orleans-based [illegible] who's [illegible] to battle [illegible] from [illegible] on the [illegible]. Directed by Kevin Munroe; adapted by Thomas Dean Donnelly and Joshua Oppenheimer from the Italian comic book by Tiziano Sclavi. BP, CUC

**Fast Five** Fifth installment of the street-racing franchise, and all the [illegible] going down against the backdrop of Rio this time. Directed by Justin Lin; written by Chris Morgan; and starring Paul Walker, Vin Diesel, and Jordana Brewster. (131 min.) AB, BP, CWC, CB, CAPH, CH, CUC, EM, EM, CCC, GL, ORC, RH, JL, UA8

**Forks Over Knives** Yet another food doc, this time [illegible] the health benefits of a [illegible] diet. Written and directed by Lee Fulkerson, with appearances by [illegible] Neal Barnard and Gene Baur. (90 min.) S

**Hanna** Not the first junior spy adventure, but one of the best. [illegible] teenager Hanna (Saoirse Ronan in a [illegible] performance) has been raised in a remote European forest by her father (Eric Bana) to be the ultimate [illegible] asset, and she certainly drives the [illegible] bonkers [illegible] CIA agent Cate Blanchett, who sends killers to kill her. But she mostly kills them. It would all be pretty silly without [illegible] Joe Wright's [illegible] narrative, captured in the snowy wilderness of Finland, the [illegible] and in a [illegible] children's amusement park in Berlin. [illegible] off as if [illegible] it, and [illegible] character playing by Tom Hollander and [illegible]. Screenplay by Seth Lochhead and David Farr, from Lochhead's story. Imaginative [illegible] by Wright (The Soloist, Atonement, Pride and Prejudice), who [illegible] from the [illegible] (111 min.) (KV) CWC, CAPH, CUC, RH, UA8

**Haunted Rock** [illegible] horror flick [illegible] a haunted mansion and the young man trying to sell it. Directed by Vikram Bhatt; written by Amin Hajee [illegible] starring [illegible] Chakraborty, Abdul Mateen and Tia Bajpai. CUC

**Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil** Animated film starring Hayden Panettiere as Red Riding Hood, who now must team up with the Wolf to rescue Hansel and Gretel. Directed by Mike Disa; written by Cory Edwards, Todd Edwards, and Tony Leech; also starring Glenn Close. (111 min.) BP, CWC, CB, CAPH, CUC, CM, RH, ORC, RH, JL, UA8, UA20

**Hop** Live-action/CGI update of Easter Bunny story following the Bunny's teenaged son [illegible] and soon-to-be heir to the family business [illegible] in a coming-of-age story as he road-trips out West to become a rock star. Directed by Tim Hill; written by Ken Daurio, Brian Lynch, and Cinco Paul; and starring Russell Brand, James Marsden, Kaley Cuoco, and Tiffany Espensen. CUC

**I Am** Interview-based documentary in which director Tom Shadyac asks scientists, activists, world leaders, and the like [illegible] what they believe the biggest problems facing the world today are and how to fix them. Featuring Desmond Tutu, Noam Chomsky, and many others. (78 min.) S

**Insidious** Horror flick about a comatose young boy's [illegible] and [illegible] life as his body is [illegible] upon by evil spirits and his mind is trapped in a [illegible] netherworld. Directed by James Wan; written by Leigh Whannell; starring Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne. BP, CUC

**Jane Eyre** Cary Joji Fukunaga [illegible] the [illegible] of the much-filmed English lit franchise: this Jane is dark, gothic, and Victorian, the better to frame the somewhat [illegible] monomania of her heroine (nicely played by Mia Wasikowska) and her elusive beloved, Rochester (Michael Fassbender), [illegible] in Thornfield Hall, the home of [illegible]. Fukunaga (Sin Nombre) and screenplay adapter Moira Buffini (Tamara Drewe) [illegible] Jane Eyre as a [illegible] intelligent, [illegible] young woman who is aware [illegible] she must play the cards [illegible] she's been dealt very carefully and [illegible] about her [illegible]. And Wasikowska provides [illegible] the large cast of supporting players adds to the allure: Sally Hawkins, Judi Dench, Jamie Bell, Freya Parker, Simon McBurney, Imogen Poots, and [illegible] Cane. (115 min.) (KV) AL, S, V

**Jumping the Broom** Romance [illegible] a time two families from opposite social strata who [illegible] together for a wedding. Directed by Salim Akil; written by Elizabeth Hunter and [illegible] starring [illegible] Alonso, Paula Patton, Jurnee Smollett, Loretta Devine, and Megan Good. BP, CWC, CB, CAPH, CH, CUC, S, RH, JL, UA20

**Limitless** Without much fanfare Neil Burger has emerged as one of the best suspense [illegible] in the business. And the irony of this [illegible] is that his [illegible] Interview With the Assassin, The Illusionist [illegible] very little [illegible] vs [illegible] figure [illegible] [illegible] the Sam [illegible] the Bourne [illegible] Burger [illegible] the old-fashioned way, through meticulously clean and [illegible] plotting. The protagonist [illegible] in a [illegible] would-be novelist (Bradley Cooper of The Hangover) who gets his hands on a [illegible] wonder drug and begins to access 100 percent of his brain capacity. After [illegible] off a best seller, he turns his [illegible] mental powers to the stock market and comes to the attention of a [illegible] corporate titan (Robert De Niro). [illegible] a [illegible] after Burger's [illegible] feature, the [illegible] [illegible] The Lucky Ones, but as a stylish [illegible] it's hard to beat. With [illegible] (97 min.) (KV) BP, RH

**The Lincoln Lawyer** Well-written, [illegible] crime story shows what happens when a wheeling-dealing Los Angeles criminal-case attorney (Matthew McConaughey) [illegible] get tangled up [illegible] a [illegible] client, a rich, arrogant playboy (Ryan Phillippe) charged with raping and beating a prostitute. Michael Connelly's novel is in good hands. Director Brad Furman (The Take) and screenwriter John Ro-

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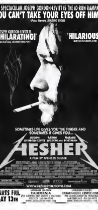
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[illegible] the LA jiffy-lube vibe in a movie with [illegible] performances by a large cast of [illegible], including William H. Macy, Josh Lucas, Frances Fisher, Bob Gunton, John Leguizamo and Marisa Tomei as the mayor's [illegible]. (132 min.) (R) (CC, [illegible])

**Meek's Cutoff** Filmmaker Kelly Reichardt throws a wet blanket over the [illegible] conventions of the Stetson western with this [illegible] tale of a lost party of white settlers wandering in the high desert, circa 1845. We're not of [illegible], but the [illegible] takes hold and continues to grow as long after we leave the theater. The [illegible] cast [illegible] Michelle Williams, Bruce Greenwood, Will Patton, Shirley Henderson, Paul Dano, Zoe Kazan, and silent man Rod Rondeaux as a captured Native American [illegible] much of its time trudging the rocky terrain with little to say, but Reichardt and her frequent writing partner Jon Raymond (Old Joy, Wendy and Lucy) resist the urge of [illegible] off the "art western" mannerisms. The interaction between Williams, as a willful wife in a classic bonnet, and Rondeaux's Cayuse [illegible] this trip rewarding not only for [illegible], but for [illegible] who admired the scope of the [illegible] "Oregon Trilogy" [illegible] which this is the final piece. Recommended. (104 min.) (PG) (SL)

**Mysteries of Egypt** National Geographic and a tour of [illegible] reveal the architecture, legends, history and most importantly, mysteries of ancient Egyptian civilization. (CSC)

**[illegible] de Servicio** Spanish-language [illegible] about a young man [illegible] and his mother's attempts to save him. Directed by Brian [illegible], written by Arturo Allen, Eduardo Marenco, Omar Quiroga and Alejandro Robles and starring [illegible] Sebastian, Iolo Nunez and Gian Franco Aponte. (79 min.) (CUC)

**Pom Wonderful Presents: The Greatest Movie Ever Sold** Morgan Spurlock already wrecked his body eating junk food in Super Size Me, so he might as well sell his soul—or at least his movie—in this [illegible] funny documentary about how he peddled $1.5 million worth of "branding integration" (the product placement) to help pay for that same ubiquitous process. So we get Spurlock trolling the inner workings of stealth advertising (and the after [illegible] on behalf of the [illegible] with [illegible] the movie's production. It's simultaneously appalling and [illegible], and it's designed to make us think about what we [illegible] might take for granted. Among the talking heads are [illegible] Chomsky, Hollywood [illegible], Quentin Tarantino, and Ralph Nader, who actually accepts a pair of a sponsor's shoes [illegible] for promotional consideration. We might as well give up. They've already won. The film's [illegible] is a nod to the lead sponsor, a maker of pomegranate juice products. [illegible] and [illegible] by Spurlock, who wrote it with Jeremy Chilnick. (88 min.) (PG-13) (AP)

**Potiche** Comic old-timer at a [illegible] takes us back to the early days of women's liberation in 1970s France, where well-to-do housewife Suzanne Pujol (Catherine Deneuve) is obliged to take control of the family umbrella factory when her husband (unpredictable Fabrice Luchini) has a heart attack over the company's labor troubles. Naturally Suzanne excels at the job, despite [illegible] of the presence of her former lover [illegible] Babin (an enormous Gérard Depardieu), now the town's [illegible] mayor and chief labor organizer. Director François Ozon is clearly having fun with the affable [illegible] adapted by Ozon from a [illegible] play by Pierre Barillet and Jean-Pierre Grédy—but it's the veteran actors who drive the vehicle. Deneuve, Luchini, and Depardieu hum like a well oiled machine. Also with [illegible] Judith Godrèche and [illegible] Sergi López. (103 min.) (R) (SP)

**The Princess of Montpensier** Bertrand Tavernier gives his version of France's 16th-century Wars of Religion—Catholics vs. Huguenots—the [illegible] combination of moral [illegible], hot-blooded romance, drawing-room intrigue and [illegible] battling [illegible] make that era [illegible]. Even though she's [illegible] by her family to an [illegible] prince (Grégoire Leprince-Ringuet), the [illegible] teenage [illegible] (gorgeous Mélanie Thierry) is capable of [illegible] not only a rugged warrior duke (Gaspard Ulliel), but the king's dandy brother (Raphaël Personnaz)—all the while being [illegible] between [illegible] her husband's [illegible] lieutenant (Lambert Wilson). [illegible] Coup de Torchon might have been [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] on a Round Table romance, but with Thierry and [illegible] given the [illegible] to lend their characters [illegible] dimension—and they gleefully take it. Intelligent screenplay by Jean Cosmos, François-Olivier Rousseau, and Tavernier [illegible] from the period novel by Madame de La Fayette. (139 min.) [illegible]

**Prom** Teen romance comedy following a group of high-schoolers' romantic lives on the lead-up to prom. Directed by Joe Nussbaum. Written by Katie Wech. Starring Aimee Teegarden, [illegible] and [illegible]. (PG) (BP, CWC, CH, CEPH, CH, [illegible], LH, BH, RCC, CSC, [illegible], JL)

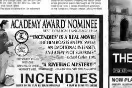
**Queen to Play** The [illegible] Sandrine Bonnaire, with a little character-acting help from the dependable Kevin Kline, [illegible] between [illegible] a thing of beauty. [illegible] Hélène, a [illegible] cleaning woman whose [illegible] ambition to learn the game of chess from an ally in her employer, a lonely [illegible] played by Kline. [illegible]/screenwriter Caroline Bottaro populates the picturesque Corsican setting with sympathetic [illegible], especially Francis [illegible] and Alexandra Gentil as Hélène's husband and daughter, but it's the [illegible] Bonnaire who carries the film. Based on the novel La Joueuse d'échecs by [illegible]. This is Kline's first [illegible] in French. (97 min.) [illegible]

**Rio** Computer-animated family film about a [illegible] on a trip to Brazil. Directed by Carlos [illegible], written by [illegible] Don Rhymer, Joshua Sternin, and Jeffrey Ventimilia; starring the voices of [illegible], Anne Hathaway and George Lopez. (96 min.) (G) (CWC, CH, CEPH, CH, CUC, CH, BH, DCC, GL, CRC, RH, JL, RCC, [illegible])

**Scream 4** The latest installment in the esteemed [illegible] franchise finds the original film's [illegible], [illegible] Prescott (Neve Campbell), once again tormented by the ghost-masked killer. Directed by Wes Craven, written by Kevin Williamson; also starring Courteney Cox and David Arquette. (103 min.) (R) (CE, CEPH, CH, CSC)

**[illegible]** The story of [illegible]'s [illegible]. (CSC)

**Something Borrowed** A [illegible] cast and moderately funny script prevail over the [illegible] of sappy [illegible] and white-bread settings that have [illegible] the [illegible] of Hollywood rom-coms. Adapted from the novel by Emily Giffin, this centers on a [illegible] and [illegible] attorney (Ginnifer Goodwin) who [illegible] into a passionate affair with the handsome, wealthy fiancé (Colin Egglesfield) of her alpha-female buddy (Kate Hudson). Keeping the [illegible] under wraps generates quite a few laughs as the pushy bride-to-be hosts a series of weekend getaways at the Hamptons, though director Luke Greenfield



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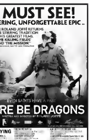

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# M&T

(The Girl Next Door) drags out the deception so long that you may be checking your watch by the time he arrives at his unexpectedly bittersweet resolution. With John Prosser. (117 min.) (L) JBP CWC, CE CEPH, CH CUC, GR, RH, UCC.

S CWC, RH, JL, UA08

**Soul Surfer** Bethany Hamilton, a promising surfer from Hawaii, nearly died in 2003 after a shark bit off her left arm, and her memoir inspired this biopic. AnnaSophia Robb (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory) is too subdued as the teenage heroine; one might expect more a fleet from a young woman fighting to overcome disability and return to competitive surfing. Hamilton's recovery was fostered by her Christian faith and the loving support of not only her parents (Dennis Quaid, a strong Helen Hunt) but the leader of her church group (Carrie Underwood). There's plenty of God talk here, but it's counterbalanced by the big surfing sequences (for which Hamilton performed some of the stunts). Disney Channel veteran Sean McNamara directed. (106 min.) (A,G) CWC, CUC, CCC, RH, UA08

**Source Code** Fly sci-fi conceit scenario is salvaged by Jake Gyllenhaal's performance as a confused army officer who wakes up on a commuter train heading into Chicago. The main things Colter Stevens (Gyllenhaal) wants to know are: 1) Why do I and only have amnesia identity? 2) What situation am I being ordered to carry out by those people on the TV screen in my head? and 3) Who is this woman seated across from me (Michelle Monaghan) and how do I get to know her better? To say any more those would be an unforgivable plot spoiler, but let's just say that Capt. Stevens' military handlers, played by Vera Farmiga and Jeffrey Wright, don't necessarily have his best interests at heart. But then, anyone who has seen a spy comedy in the past twenty years already knows that. The screenplay is by Ben Ripley. An [illegible] directed by Duncan Jones (Moon). (93 min.) (KV) BG, CWC, CUC, RH, JL, UA08

**There Be Dragons** Providence, Opus Dei ... displays all of director Roland Joffé's worst tendencies to full disadvantage. In flashback, a dying Spaniard named Manolo Torres (Wes Bentley) confesses to his journalist son (Dougray Scott) his youthful crimes and misdemeanors, circa 1930, revolving around a courageous Catholic priest (Charlie Cox), a Basque freedom fighter (Olga Kurylenko) and a [illegible] leader (Rodrigo Santoro), all rabidly observed by the young Manolo's devotion to the Franco cause. Joffé (The Killing Fields, The Mission) seemingly cannot [illegible] moral spectacles like this. At least the action sequences are competent. Screenplay by Joffé. Presented in English. (120 min.) CH, CUC, CAPH, UA08

**Thor** Kenneth Branagh directs Marvel Comics' hammer-wielding Norse god (Chris Hemsworth) as he is exiled to New Mexico and he falls in love with Natalie Portman on the way to killing the red-eyed frozen skeleton guy who helped Thor's brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston) take over Asgard and put their father Odin (Anthony Hopkins), king of the gods, at death's door. Not all that Branagh's direction looks the same as that of any other summer tentpole manager, and things go boom [illegible] look right where [illegible] including Marvel chief Stan Lee, to defeat the screenplay. Fanboys delight; all others beware. Costarring Stellan Skarsgård and Kat Dennings. (114 min.) (KV) BG, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CR, RH, CCC, EL, GRC, RH, JL, RCC, UA8, WWS

**To Be an Astronaut** Wonder what it takes? Take a trip inside the gates of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to lift-off. (40 min.) CSC

**Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family** The latest installment in Tyler Perry's [illegible] franchise [illegible] the family [illegible] as she attempts to gather her adult kids together for a family announcement. Written, directed, and starring Perry; also with Loretta Devine and Bow Wow. (106 min.) BG, BP, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, RH, JL

**Water for Elephants** Depression-era romantic drama about a circus animal keeper (Robert Pattinson) and his equestrian star (Reese Witherspoon). Directed by Francis Lawrence, adapted by Richard LaGravenese from the novel of the same name by Sara Gruen. BG, BP, CWC, CB, CEPH, CH, CUC, CAPH, RH, CCC, EL, GRC, RH, UA8

**Win Win** Comedy-drama about a downtrodden New Jersey lawyer (Paul Giamatti) moonlighting as a high school wrestling coach, written and directed by Tom McCarthy; also starring Amy Ryan and Alex Shaffer. CAPH, RH, PM, UA08

### Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

## ONE-NIGHT STANDS

### THURSDAY MAY 12

**The African Queen** (103 min., 1951) Cerrito Classics (RCC, 7:15)

**Presunto Culpable** (87 min., 2008) In Spanish with English subtitles (P, 7:30)

### SUNDAY, MAY 15

**Love's Labour's Lost** (165 min., 2009) Shakespeare in Cinema (BL, 1:00)

### TUESDAY MAY 17

**Frankenstein** (145 min., 2011) National Theatre Live (RCC, 1:00)

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

**Fixing the Future** (60 min., 2010) Presented by [illegible] and discussion at 6:30 p.m., [illegible] (Humanist Hall, [illegible] 7:30)

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# UNLEASHING CARLA KIHLSTEDT

Tin Hat deploys its most powerful instrument.

By Andrew Gilbert

With personnel changes and band members on the move, the avant-chamber ensemble **Tin Hat** realized that a moment of truth had arrived. It was time to unleash **Carla Kihlstedt.**

Founded in San Francisco as Tin Hat Trio in the mid 1990s by a triumvirate of conservatory-trained East Coast transplants, the group has morphed and expanded over the years while retaining its essentially instrumental identity. Despite a series of albums featuring vocals by a fabulous array of special guests, including **Tom Waits** and **Willie Nelson**, Tin Hat rarely called upon Kihlstedt's prodigious pipes, instead featuring her compositions and dauntingly accomplished violin work.

Tin Hat's latest incarnation presents a batch of new musical settings for the poetry of **e.e. cummings** on Thursday at Mill Valley's **Throckmorton Theatre** and on Friday at **Freight & Salvage.** The gigs will serve as preparation for the recording of the band's first album of new material since 2007's ravishing *The Sad Machinery of Spring* (Hannibal), another literary project inspired by the lyric, hallucinatory writing of the doomed Polish Jewish artist **Bruno Schulz**. Featuring founding guitarist **Mark Orton** (now based in Portland, Oregon), Berkeley clarinetist **Ben Goldberg**, and San Francisco accordion ace **Rob Reich**, a recent addition to the Tin Hat fold, the group embarks on a new era with the cummings songs.

"We've been looking for a project for a while where we could use Carla as a vocalist," said Orton, an award-winning film composer whose credits include scores for **Miguel Arteta**'s *The Good Girl*, **Jodie Markell**'s *The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond*, and numerous documentaries. "She's such a powerful force as a singer. There were worries earlier that it would throw the group off balance, but this gives us the potential to explore art songs and chamber crossover stuff, things that we haven't gotten to as much.

"A lot of cummings' poetry is beautifully sonorous and lends itself well to song. He was so prolific. We all have the same book, the complete works, and there are a lot of options. There's some stuff that's very surreal with words broken apart, and earlier pieces with standard rhyme schemes."

The cummings project arrives at a propitious moment for Kihlstedt, a longtime Oakland resident who relocated to Cape Cod last year with her husband, percussionist/vocalist **Matthias Bossi**, and their infant daughter Tallulah. While she's pursuing numerous commissions, she has shed almost all of her other ensemble entanglements. Last month, Kihlstedt performed at **The Independent** at the farewell gig for **Sleepytime Gorilla Museum**, the outrageously inventive art rock band she founded with former **Idiot Flesh** members bassist **Dan Rathbun** and guitarist/vocalist **Nils Frykdahl**. And her astonishing singer/songwriter effort **2 Foot Yard** melted away as her collaborators, cellist/vocalist **Marika Hughes** and percussionist/guitarist **Shahzad Ismaily**, immersed themselves in their own projects.

A graduate of Oberlin, Kihlstedt blossomed as an artist when she moved to the Bay Area in 1994. She kept one foot in the classical world to help pay the bills while plunging into free improvisation with masters such as **ROVA Saxophone Quartet**'s **Larry Ochs**, guitarist **John Schott**, and **Ben Goldberg** (then in the thick of radically reinterpreting traditional Ashkenazi melodies with **New Klezmer Trio**). She honed her vocal skills with **Jewlia Eisenberg**'s bluesy Balkan rock band **Charming Hostess** at a time when the group also featured Idiot Flesh members, who opened her eyes to the creative potential of a rock act.

"I was fresh out of conservatory and had done my best to leave behind the whole classical world," Kihlstedt said. "The thing I missed was the attention to detail that classical music affords you. Working on Bartok's string quartets, there's a level of detail and precision while still making incredibly visceral music that I really thrived on. I realized that what I was missing existed in an incredibly powerful, amazingly performative, all encompassing rock experience."

**Show Details**
Thursday May 12, 142 Throckmorton Theatre (142 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley), 8 p.m., $18, $21, 142ThrockMortonTheatre.com, and Friday May 13, Freight & Salvage (2020 Addison Ave., Berkeley), 8 p.m., $22.50, $24.50, TheFreight.org

If there's one thread connecting the seemingly disparate worlds through which Kihlstedt moves it's a zeal for the written word. From Tin Hat's engagement with Schulz and cummings to Sleepytime's obsession with **James Joyce** to composer **Lisa Bielawa**'s "The Kafka Letters" — which set the author's correspondence to music as a vehicle for exploring her extraordinary ability to perform intricate pieces simultaneously as a violinist and a vocalist — Kihlstedt describes many of her projects as book clubs.

"We're such nerds," she said. "But it's really fun to have four or five people all thinking about the same texts and being able to discuss it on tour."

Kihlstedt isn't the only member of Tin Hat who is stretching into new territory. For Goldberg, a dynamic force on the Bay Area's improvised music scene for more than two decades, composing for Tin Hat has accelerated a journey that he's also traveling in his gritty quartet **Go Home**, with guitarist **Charlie Hunter** and drummer **Scott Amendola**. After years as a passionate exponent of free improvisation, he's found himself drawn to writing simple melodies. The cummings project has pushed him further down that road, developing ideas that can stand alone as a statement, rather than serving as guideposts for extended exploration.

"With cummings poetry, you've got to write a song that fits together as a song," Goldberg said. "You can't just write a tune, you've got to have the right arrangement, particularly because it's a strange combination of instruments. If I write a tune for a jazz trio, all I need is a melody and some chord changes. This has got me working with the details and the nitty gritty of the music in a much more thorough way. I credit Tin Hat with forcing me into that situation."

Tin Hat is spotlighting the vocals of Carla Kihlstedt.

For old time Tin Hat fans, the most interesting part of the new order is the addition of accordionist Rob Reich. The original Tin Hat Trio included **Rob Burger** on accordion, when he moved back East to pursue a career in New York City as an arranger and session player. Orton and Kihlstedt ended up trimming "trio" from Tin Hat and collaborating with a disparate cast of players, including **Björk** harpist **Zeena Parkins** and tuba player **Bryan Smith**. Goldberg became a full-fledged member about five years ago, along with San Francisco multi-instrumentalist **Ara Anderson**, who left last year to pursue his own projects.

Anderson's exit opened the door for Reich, a brilliant musician who shares the group's conservatory training and love of improvisation. As a member of the Gypsy swing combo **Gaucho** and the folk-jazz **Nice Guy Trio**, the Oberlin alum seeks out a vast and varied array of musical settings, including composing music for the Bay Area's **Circus Bella**. When Tin Hat plays pieces from early recordings like the 1999 debut "Memory Is An Elephant" and 2002's "The Rodeo Ended," it's impossible not to compare the original trio sound to the new version.

"There are moments when my ears are sent into pure nostalgia for all the years with Rob Burger," Orton said. "Rob came up on accordion as Tin Hat formed. Now he's completely his own person on the instrument, from **Lucinda Williams** to **Laurie Anderson**. Reich is a very different kind of player who opens up a whole world of possibilities. He's such a sophisticated and soulful musician, a real virtuoso on the instrument, with incredible ears. He's breathed new life into the band by offering a fresh take on our sound, while harkening back to a mix we all loved." ●

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# THE FIRST LADY

Evelyn Turrentine-Agee brings a blithe spirit to Good Hope Baptist Church

By Lee Hildebrand

"I'm from a Mississippi morning," **Evelyn Turrentine-Agee** told the audience of several hundred Sunday afternoon during her emotion-charged ninety-minute performance at **Good Hope Baptist Church**. "My momma and daddy had eighteen children." The Detroit-based gospel singer went on to talk about how the family was so poor that, while she was growing up in St. Louis, her mother would feed them with trays of home-baked biscuits with sugar water syrup and some fatback grease to give the meal a meaty taste. Turrentine-Agee also said that she and her husband have 11 living children and 54 grandchildren.

Good Hope pastor **Joe L. Smith** normally books leading male quartets such as the **Mighty Clouds of Joy** and the **Gospel Keynotes** to appear at his East Oakland church, but Sunday was Mother's Day and he instead presented three groups featuring mostly women. The **First Ladies**, a sextet of local Baptist preachers' wives, opened the program with three selections that were rough around the edges but rife with spirit. They were followed by the **Miller Singers**, four sisters from Stockton whose lead vocalist **Sherrill Easter** bounced up and down the aisles while singing in throaty alto tones to the unrelenting 2/4 shout beat of a four-man rhythm section. She remained in motion after telling the audience that she'd had hip-replacement surgery and began lifting her legs even higher. "I got a brand new walk," she wailed over her sisters' repeated chant of "saved and sanctified." The musicians kept the groove going even after the women left the stage, and guitarist **Thomas Smith Jr.** took a turn in the aisles, picking molten shards of blue notes as he pranced.

Turrentine-Agee opened last year at the church for the Mighty Clouds of Joy and was back this year as headliner. One of the most dynamic singers in African American gospel music, she is billed as "the Queen of Quartet." Although she and her four backup singers, which include her son Harold and daughter Chaes, do not technically qualify as a quartet — an overwhelmingly male genre — they have found fame with quartet fans by appearing in recent years on bills with such top quartets as the Clouds and **Lee Williams and the Spiritual QC's**. Indeed, her current Shanachie CD *There's Gonna Be a Meeting* was produced by guitarist **Al Hollis** of the Spiritual QC's.

Wearing a loose-fitting canary yellow dress, her auburn hair pulled back tightly into a bun, Turrentine-Agee shared some recent misfortunes with the audience after opening her set with a rendition of the slow, reverent "Welcome Holy Spirit," filled with cascading curlicues and dramatic pauses. Just the night before, upon arriving in Los Angeles for a concert, she explained, the promoter told her "There ain't no money." And three weeks earlier in Detroit, she'd had "major surgery." Her doctor advised her not to go back on the road, but she didn't listen.

Evelyn Turrentine-Agee

"I expect the impossible today," she said, adding, "I'm gonna shut up 'cause you know I'm glad to be here — cancer-free."

Sitting down in a chair in front of her singers, Turrentine-Agee sang "There's a Meeting (Over Yonder)" in remarkably pliant contralto tones, alternately raspy and clear. She rocked back and forth in place to her four-man band's gentle shuffle beat, lifting her feet to the line, *I'm gonna wear my golden slippers*. The tempo quickened for "Work It Out," which guitarist **Morris Sanders Jr.** kicked off with a blistering blues lead. Turrentine-Agee broke the first word — *He'll* — into four descending syllables as she began her testimony in song, eventually turning the vocal duties over to her leather-lunged son Harold. Holy Ghost fervor began taking hold in the crowd. Women danced in the aisles, and children stood to rattle their tambourines.

**Harold Turrentine** took the helm for the next three selections as his mother beamed with admiration. The other vocalists chanted, *I'm gonna trust in the Lord*; their harmonies filled with subtle crescendos as he moved effortlessly between a raspy low tenor and a stratospheric falsetto. His songs, including "I Will Trust in the Lord" and "Amazing Grace," soon turned to testimony about how he had once attempted suicide after his wife left him and how he had been illiterate even after graduating high school, until the Holy Ghost miraculously gave him the gift of reading.

His mother was soon back on her feet, crying out seemingly uncontrollably in high-pitched shrieks. "I wasn't afraid when I went under the knife," she said of her cancer surgery. "I'm glad I've been born again."

Sitting back down, Turrentine-Agee closed out the set with "God Did It," the hit that finally propelled the veteran recording artist into the national spotlight a dozen years back. *Everything that happened to me that was good, God did it*, she sang over her band's rousing shout beat. Spiritual pandemonium broke out in the building. Members of the audience screamed with joy, their arms flailing as they danced in place and in the aisles.

*What's His name?* Turrentine-Agee sang, her voice soaring with passion, to which her singers answered in fervent harmony, "Jesus!" ●

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# WALL OF SOUND

Fleet Foxes brings its unassuming brand of folk to the Fox Theater

By Nathan Pensky

Seattle folk group **Fleet Foxes** enjoys a level of popularity and critical acclaim only a handful of current acts can boast. Only two albums into its career the band has garnered comparisons with such all-time classics as **Neil Young** and **Crosby, Stills, and Nash**. Its self-titled debut album went to the top of many critics' 2008 best-of lists, and the release this month of its second album, *Helplessness Blues* has already made similar impressions. Everyone seems to agree that this is not only an important band but a very good one. But Fleet Foxes' universal appeal is contrary to the subdued nature of the band's aesthetic. Its music is quiet and unassuming; it doesn't demand to be heard.

An unassuming nature should only help the Foxes, particularly at a time when popularity threatens to cloud listeners' perception of its music. But it didn't necessarily serve the band well during a sold-out show last Thursday at the **Fox Theater**.

Just before Fleet Foxes took the stage, singer **Robin Pecknold** came out to check his levels. The crowd cheered, but he waved them off, seemingly annoyed at the attention. When the band came on he offered some mumbled stage banter, but not much. Instead, the Foxes got straight to business, playing a good sampling of its releases thus far. The band doesn't really have "hits," but there are a few songs that stand out in its catalog: "Blue Ridge Mountains," "White Winter Hymnal," and "He Doesn't Know Why" from its first album, "Montezuma," "Grown Ocean," and "Helplessness Blues" from its second.

The band played well, but either because of the acoustics of the venue or the size of the crowd, its sound was washed out and fuzzy. That was especially disappointing, considering the ornate orchestrations and subtle musical textures for which it is so well known. One imagines Fleet Foxes playing in a cathedral, or in some mountain glade, at the very least in open air. Here, its painstakingly layered sound was blared through a PA system in order to play to a multitude.

The songs with simpler arrangements translated the best in the house's painfully awkward mixing. But those with more lush arrangements came out as a muddled mess. The band had a touring musician onstage who played a variety of instruments throughout the show — upright bass, flute, guitar, tambourine, even an ill-conceived free-jazz/noise-rock moment on saxophone during one song. The set would've sounded infinitely better with only Pecknold on guitar; the simple talents of the full band here were fairly wasted.

Looking over the heads of the crowd that flocked to the Fox Theater last Thursday night, the minute care so transparent on Fleet Foxes' two excellent albums was hard to absorb. It was Fleet Foxes who played that night, but whether it was Fleet Foxes that I heard is less certain. It felt as though a wall had been thrown up somewhere in the space between Pecknold's guitar and my ears. ●

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CD REVIEWS

# UNHOLY FUSIONS

Garage rock and proto goth. Wynton and Willie, Man Man and a "real" producer

## Crystal Stilts

In Love with Oblivion

About "lo-fi" indie rock — recordings that are purposely primitive-sounding or at the very least, reject any sort of "professional" recording technique — it can be seen as a means to establish mood/ambience, as much as **Phil Spector's** "wall of sound" was the medium for his 'little symphonies for the kids.' *In Love with Oblivion*, the second disc by NYC's **Crystal Stilts**, has atmosphere to spare. It's a journey to the garage basement from which there may be no escape. *In Love* is an unholy fusion of 1960s garage-rock tunefulness and the proto-goth driven despair of **Bauhaus** and **Joy Division**.

The doom-laden vocals of singer **Brad Hargett** evoke **The Doors' Jim Morrison** singing in a presumably abandoned aircraft hangar, or **Joy Division's Ian Curtis** from the bottom of a very deep well. Songs are drenched in reverb; slabs of organ support the haunting, melancholic melodies, guitar parts are mostly terse, twangy and jagged, the drums sound like they're made of heavy cardboard, and most of the words are deliriously unintelligible. The patented **Bo Diddley**-style rhythm snakes through the stomper "Sycamore Tree," lending it even more of a Doors flavor. But a few rays of light make it through. "Silver Sun" is driven by heavily strummed, folk rock jangling strings recalling **The Byrds**, **REM** and the early singles by **Orange Juice**. Regardless of fidelity, "Shake the Shackles" is a neat-o, urgent, surging rocker that many bands would be proud to call their own.

Sometimes Hargett's darkly ominous monotone singing can get a little wearying, but for those who love overcast sounds that rock, *In Love with Oblivion* is a perfect soundtrack. (Slumberland Records)

*— Mark Keresman*

## Man Man

Life Fantastic

**Man Man**'s live show is legendary. Members of the Philly-based experimental rock quintet blow feathers into the crowd, climb the rafters and shoot each other with silly string. They cover themselves in thick layers of warpaint and wear head-to-toe white outfits — that is, when they're not wearing drag or wearing outfits or animal suits or creepy coordinated trenchcoats. Frontman **Honus Honus**' scratchy, gruff, Waits-like yowl bounces off every surface in the room, and his bandmates have been known to use buckets, silverware, and their own bodies as instruments. It's part rock show, part performance art, part freak show, and it's so bonkers that all of their albums feel something like stuffing an elephant into an earring box. Any attempt at compressing all that energy and noise and spontaneity and sex appeal into a jewel case or an MP3 file invariably ends up feeling two-dimensional and terribly small.

Nowhere is that clearer than on the band's most recent, *Life Fantastic*. For this album the group reeled in a quote-unquote "real" producer, **Saddle Creek's Mike Mogis**, and it shows. The band has been reigned in at least as much as it can be. The members maintained most of the formal elements of their previous work — the baroque, borderline epileptic arrangements, the unbelievably dark lyrics, that hypnotic voice. But their sound is altogether tighter, leaner and a whole lot less surprising. It's fine, but you're probably better off saving your $20 bucks and seeing them live. (Anti-)

*— Ellen Cushing*

At Bimbo's 365 Club (1025 Columbus Ave., San Francisco) on Saturday, May 14. 8 p.m. $18. Bimbos365Club.com.

## Willie Nelson & Wynton Marsalis Featuring Norah Jones

Here We Go Again

Country music legend **Willie Nelson** and acoustic jazz icon **Wynton Marsalis** may seem like polar opposites, but they have the blues and the catalog of American pop song standards in common ground. For their second recorded meeting, these greats (plus Norah Jones) tip their collective hat to another icon: **Ray Charles**.

Charles ranks with **Chuck Berry**, **Elvis** and **Sinatra** as a canonical figure in American pop. With a voice mighty, raspy and tender, Charles synthesized blues, jazz, gospel, country and Tin Pan Alley tunes and laid the groundwork for rock 'n' roll, rhythm & blues, soul, almost everything came down Highway 61 since. *Again*'s songs are either Charles' compositions or associated with him, and the Nelson/Marsalis band — a mixture of Marsalis' working band, Nelson's longtime harmonica player **Mickey Raphael** and guest **Norah Jones**, who sings on half the album — perform with sparkling aplomb. This affair has a slightly languid after-hours feel — genial and relaxed, as if playing for the fun of it.

Nelson's slightly behind-the-beat vocal phrasing and thorny **Fred Frith**-meets-**Chet Atkins** guitar make a nice fit with Marsalis' lads. Marsalis himself gets in touch with his inner **Louis Armstrong**, making with some remarkably rippling horn-growls and smears. His tandem passages with tenor saxophonist **Walter Blanding** evoke a big band horn section. Ms. Jones sumptuously combines Billie Holiday's influence with a sly country twang.

It's not a "masterwork," but no one claiming the continuum of American music should be without this. (Blue Note)

*— Mark Keresman*

### Sisters of the Sun Band

The Feenoot Chronicles Vol. II

With a lo-fi [illegible] setup **Sisters of the Sun** — the [illegible] **Sean Alford** and a singer whose name is a cumbersome twelve [illegible] "V" — and a decent hard rock album "V" handles all the guitar and bass parts, whilst singing in a growlier boost. No voice is [illegible] guitar riffs, in contrast, are commanding and rhythmically adventurous. (Reel Rock N Roll Records)

### Five Play Jazz Quintet

Fire of Hearts

Perhaps "Five Play" is a bit of a misnomer since the jazz quintet has two considerable leaders — guitarist **Tony Corman** and pianist **Laura Klein** — who split compositional duties (and solos) on this album. From a technical standpoint, the musicians all sound fairly good, yet they sometimes [illegible] toward different styles — Latin swing, dusky ballads, blues — without a hitch. (Armando Chavez)

Tony Corman Jazz Trio plays Nick's Lounge (3218 Adeline St., Berkeley) on Sundays. 6:30 p.m. free.

### Andy Hesson

Rock Sun

Male torch songs are the best [illegible] when they're bewitched like "Sorry That I Love You." Or when the opening verse is all about clinging to a relationship long past its expiration date. It's definitely the highlight of **Andy Hesson**'s new [illegible] album, [illegible] In the second best track is another [illegible] love ballad, called "Simply You." (Last Stop Records)

At Nomad Cafe (6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, May 15. 5-7 p.m. free.

### Aloha Screwdriver

Hit Way Out

It's hard to find variation in an album composed entirely of instrumental surf rock, but the ones of **Aloha Screwdriver** guitarist **Donald Belt** serves as the voice of the band. He [illegible] all the genre hallmarks — electric tremolo, spidery reverb, fast, jagged riffs — to create a perfect combination of [illegible] Orange County surf rock. [illegible] really sings on "Like a [illegible] Through Water." (self-released) ●

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# CONCERTS & CLUBS

## ON SALE THIS WEEK

**Ben Harper:** Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 15 at 10 a.m. Tue., Aug. 23, 8 p.m., $40-$60. The [illegible]

**[illegible] Summer Tour featuring [illegible] (Live)** with [illegible], and [illegible] go on sale [illegible] May 12 [illegible] Aug. 5, 8 p.m., $29.50. Fox Theater.

**Iggy and The Stooges.** Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 15 [illegible] 10 a.m., Sept. 12 [illegible] 8 p.m. $45. The Warfield.

**The Musical Box (Tribute to Genesis):** Tickets go on sale Sunday, May 15 at 10 a.m. Mon., Oct. [illegible] 8 p.m., $41.25-$52.25. The Regency Presents

**We the Kings:** with The [illegible] go on sale Sunday, May 15 at 10 a.m., Fri., Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m. The Regency Presents

[illegible] go on sale Friday, May 13 at 10 a.m., Sun., July 31, 8 p.m., $39.50. The Regency [illegible]

## THURSDAY 12

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**[illegible]** solo guitar. [illegible], 7-9 p.m., free.

**[illegible] & Pickin' at the Plough, The [illegible] Pub-Style Honky-Tonk, [illegible] Rockabilly Series** with The Sadlucks, The West Coast [illegible], Jed [illegible] & [illegible]. Starry Plough, 9:30 p.m. $8.

**Trout & Salvage** [illegible] The Hen Parade, 8 p.m. [illegible], $12

**[illegible]** with [illegible] & the [illegible], Ashkenaz, 9 p.m. $10

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Baby, Please Don't Go: Goodbye [illegible] for Teresa Trull with [illegible], Linda Tillery & [illegible]** Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m. $12-$20

**Hydroplane** with [illegible], [illegible] Cafe, 7 p.m., [illegible]

**[illegible]** Jazzschool, 8:45 p.m., $5

**[illegible]** [illegible] 8 p.m. $15

**[illegible]** [illegible] jazz with guitar [illegible] singers. The Alley, 8 p.m. Free

**[illegible]** Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 p.m. free

**The [illegible] Vocal Program** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $17.50

**Thursday Night [illegible] Session [illegible]** [illegible] Gallery, 8:30 p.m.

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** piano covers of [illegible], [illegible] jazz, 8 p.m., [illegible] Restaurant, 9 p.m., free

**[illegible] plays [illegible]** [illegible], 9 p.m., free

**The [illegible]** [illegible] Irish Sports Bar, 10 p.m., free

**[illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible] Club, 9 p.m. $5

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Experimental & Avant Garde

**[illegible]** with [illegible], 8 p.m., $8-$10

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible] Trio** live jazz, [illegible], 7:30-11 p.m. free

**[illegible]** musical revue [illegible] spoof of pop culture figures in which [illegible] [illegible] travels around the world in [illegible]. Club Fugazi, 8 p.m.,

$25-$71

**Eddie [illegible]** w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m. free

**George [illegible]** [illegible] 8:30 p.m.

**The [illegible]** [illegible], 7:30 p.m. free

**[illegible]** [illegible] plays [illegible] [illegible], 9 p.m. $5

**[illegible]** San Francisco-based [illegible] performs [illegible] jazz and blues. Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. $10

**Young [illegible] & the Miles [illegible]** [illegible] Room, 7:30 p.m. $35, $40, $45

### Rock & Pop

**Ezra Furman & The Harpoons** with [illegible] and The Apache Relay [illegible] of the Hill, 9 p.m. $10-$12

**[illegible]** with Their [illegible] Explosion, [illegible] & Robot Show. [illegible], 9 p.m., $8

**[illegible]** [illegible] And The [illegible] And The Franklin [illegible] The [illegible] And Devil Lounge, 9 p.m. $8

**An [illegible]** [illegible] The Independent, 8 p.m. $25

**[illegible] of Arc** with [illegible] and [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $12-$14

**My [illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible] Presents. Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m., $6

**[illegible]** with [illegible] Cardboard Funeral [illegible] 9 p.m. $7

**[illegible] Club Night with [illegible]** with [illegible] the [illegible] 10 p.m. $10

**[illegible] & The [illegible]** with The [illegible], 8 p.m. $10

**Young [illegible]** Celtic rock and roll, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $20

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

**[illegible]** [illegible] 8:30 p.m. free

**[illegible] Thursdays** [illegible] & [illegible] with [illegible] & [illegible]. Pa'lo [illegible], [illegible] p.m., $12

## FRIDAY 13

## EAST BAY

### All Ages

**Country Joe's [illegible] Hall and [illegible]** w/ special guests, [illegible] Unitarian Universalists, 7-9 p.m., $5-$10 [illegible] Presents

### Blues, Folk & Country

**[illegible]** Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.

**[illegible]** High Street Station, 8 p.m., $5-$10

**[illegible] and [illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible] Brooks, Starry Plough, 9 p.m., $8

**[illegible]** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $22.50, $28.50

**The [illegible]** plus [illegible] with [illegible]. [illegible], 9 p.m. $15

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Jazzschool [illegible] Performances** Jazzschool, May 13-14. free

**[illegible] Trio** [illegible] Club, 8:30 p.m.

**[illegible]** [illegible] 9-11:30 p.m. free

**[illegible]** [illegible] 9-11 p.m.

**The [illegible]** Yoshi's, May 13-14, 8 & 10 p.m. $28

**[illegible]** dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers. The Alley, 8 p.m. free

**[illegible]** [illegible] 11 p.m. [illegible]

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** with [illegible] (Chicago), A [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] Red House Live, 8 p.m. $10-$12

**The [illegible]** Fox Theater, 8 p.m. $49.50

**[illegible]** with [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], and [illegible] Mile High Club, 9 p.m. $7

**[illegible]** piano covers of [illegible], [illegible] jazz, 8 p.m., Pete's Restaurant, 9 p.m. free

**[illegible] Dive Bar with DJ [illegible]** [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] Club, 9 p.m., $5

**[illegible]** with [illegible] Religious [illegible], The Uptown, 9 p.m. $10

**[illegible]** with [illegible] Cafe, 7 p.m., [illegible] accepted

**The [illegible]** [illegible] 8 p.m. $12

**[illegible]** with [illegible] CA, [illegible] Saloon [illegible] and [illegible] Canyon, 1 p.m. $8

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**[illegible] Soul** soul showcase w/ live performers, [illegible], 9 p.m. $7

**[illegible]** [illegible] The New Parish, 9 p.m. $15, $20

**[illegible]** [illegible], 5-7 p.m. free

**[illegible]** [illegible], 8 p.m. free

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

**[illegible] And The [illegible]** Ashkenaz, 9 p.m. $12-$6 for Bay Area musicians

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk & Country

**[illegible]** with [illegible], [illegible] Dobson, and Craig [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m. $15

**[illegible]** [illegible] Ristorante, 8 p.m.-midnight, free

**[illegible] & The [illegible]** Red Poppy Art House, 8 p.m. $10-$15

**[illegible] & The [illegible] with Special Guest [illegible]** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $24

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible] Trio** live jazz, [illegible] Presents, 6-8:30 p.m. free

**[illegible]** Club Fugazi, 8 p.m. $25-$71

**[illegible]** Top of the Mark, 9 p.m. $10

**Eddie [illegible]** w/ [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m. free

**George [illegible]** [illegible], 8:30 p.m.

**The [illegible]** [illegible] & [illegible] Books & Records, 5:30 p.m. free

**[illegible] & the [illegible] Presents** [illegible] Room, 7:30 p.m. $35, $40, $45

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible] & [illegible]** with High [illegible] Elbo Room, 9:30 p.m., $10

**The [illegible]** with Sleepy Sun, [illegible], 9 p.m. $13

**The [illegible]** with [illegible] and the All Star [illegible] [illegible] The [illegible], The [illegible], The Mad Mob, La [illegible] Kid [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] "[illegible]" [illegible] Presents. [illegible], 9 p.m., $10

**[illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible] Problem, [illegible] Tavern, 9:30 p.m. $8

**[illegible] The [illegible] & Fort [illegible]** Red Devil Lounge, 9 p.m. $15

**[illegible]** with [illegible] and The [illegible] Hotel Utah, 9 p.m. $8

**An [illegible] Solo and Acoustic [illegible] with [illegible]** The Independent, 8 p.m. $25

**Lady [illegible] Presents... [illegible] by the Bay: An Evening of Jazz, [illegible] and Mystery** featuring the [illegible] Big Band and the [illegible] Cafe du Nord, 9:30 p.m. $11, $13

**[illegible]** with [illegible] and [illegible] 9:30 p.m., $10

**Of Montreal** with [illegible] Palms, The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $28

**[illegible] John [illegible]** with [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 9 p.m. $20

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**[illegible] City [illegible]** [illegible] Country 10:30 p.m. $16, $20

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

**[illegible] & The [illegible]** with [illegible] Cafe, 9 p.m. $10

# PICKS

### Saviours

Metal fans across the spectrum will have plenty to choose from over the next couple weeks, whether their [illegible] from [illegible] Brazilian death metal (Sepultura at the Regency, May 11), blitzed-out psych rock (Sleepy Sun at Slim's, May 13), or straight-up black metal (Inquisition, Belenis and Vastum at Elbo Room, May 18). But our money's on **Saviours**, the Oakland band that channels the late-Seventies/early Eighties New Wave of British Heavy Metal vibe, sprinkled with a bit of early thrash, for sheer [illegible]. Drummer **Scott Batiste**, who writes the songs, has a voracious appetite for music and listens to obscure stuff, so his compositions are far more interesting than that of most throwback bands. Saviours will be on home turf at **Ell e Mile High Club** (3901 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland) on Sunday, May 15, one of two local shows in a week-long West Coast tour with **Midnight**, **Lightning Swords of Death**, and **Archons** (the same lineup plays the following night at the Elbo Room). The band says it'll debut new material and start recording shortly thereafter. Expect debauchery. 8 p.m., ticket price TBA. EliMileHigh.com — *Kathleen Richards*

### Stevie Wonder Birthday Celebration with Jazz Mafia

On September 17, 2010, **Stevie Wonder** — yes, the real Stevie Wonder of *Talking Book* and *Music of My Mind* and that bizarre album about the secret lives of plants — showed up at Coda jazz club in San Francisco, to jam with **Jazz Mafia**. It was, bandleader Adam Theis would write in a blog post the next day "the best night of my life." And even from a crappy video posted on the Jazz Mafia web site, the enthusiasm is contagious — especially when Wonder launches into a dazzling rendition of "Can't Help It," the song he wrote for **Michael Jackson**. In the two years since, Theis and company have tried over and over again to rekindle that experience. They'll do it again at **The New Parish** (579 18th St., Oakland) on Friday, May 13, with a ten-piece band in honor of Wonder's birthday. The man himself isn't scheduled to appear this time but, well — you never know. 9 p.m., $15, $20. TheNewParish.com — *Rachel Swan*

### The Greenhornes

As Cincinnati's greatest contribution to the current garage rock revival, **The Greenhornes** are best known for having a rhythm section that also serves in **The Raconteurs**. Last year the aforementioned **Jack Lawrence** and **Patrick Keeler** reunited with frontman/guitarist **Craig Fox** to release **** (aka *Four Stars*) the band's fourth studio outing and first album in eight years. The resulting dozen-song set is a wondrous hop on the way-back machine to the early British Invasion greatness of **The Kinks** and **The Stones**. It also manages to incorporate the acid-fueled psychedelia of more obscure acts like **The Creation** and **The Pretty Things**. Loads of Farfisa organ and fuzz-guitar are heaped onto ear-worms like "Jacob's Ladder" and "Underestimated," giving the Greenhornes a shot at being the unofficial house band for **Little Steven's Underground Garage**. **Jack White's** favorite Ohio-born power-trio will be making a most glorious sounding racket on Saturday, May 14 at **Bottom of the Hill** (1233 17th St., San Francisco). 10 p.m., $12. BottomoftheHill.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

### Rez Abbasi

Like many jazz musicians, **Rez Abbasi** is fixated on the idea of tapping into his roots. A few years ago the Pakistani-American guitarist began steeping himself in Qawwali, a form of praise music from his home country that he describes as deeply "groove-based" — not in the funky, rhythmic sense of the word "groove," but in the "trance-like" sense. He found a way to explore it within a jazz context, using homegrown spin tal — with saxophonist **Greg Osby**, pianist **Matt Mitchell**, bassist **Johannes Weidenmueller**, and drummer **Dan Weiss** — as a vehicle. The group graces Yoshi's this week to play *Abbasi*, a new six-song suite, in session, which he composed with a grant from the organization **Chamber Music America**. The record, which drops in October, will mix two seemingly antithetical styles: jazz swing and visceral, Eastern trance. Abbasi said he's proud of the result. At **Oakland Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland) on Tuesday, May 17. 8 p.m. [illegible] Yoshis.com — *R.S.*

### Femi Kuti and the Positive Force

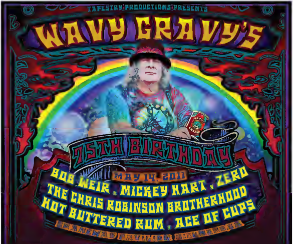
As the son of Fela Kuti, **Femi Kuti** had some big shoes to fill. Femi's music may be built on the foundation of Fela's polyrhythmic jams, but he adds to the mix by blending in the modern beats of American and European club cultures, as well as R&B and hip-hop. The result honors his father's work while presenting his own vision of a global pop sound that remains political, [illegible] and danceable. **The Positive Force** may be one of the hardest-working bands on the planet, to plagiarize a phrase. At **Bimbo's 365 Club** (1025 Columbus Ave., San Francisco) on Friday, May 13. 9 p.m. $30. Bimbos365Club.com — *J. poet*

### Jazz on Fourth Street Festival

If the main currency in the Bay Area jazz scene is hope, then Berkeley High is the best safe deposit box. Launched in the mid-Seventies by the late **Phil Hardymon**, it's become a veritable institution, producing such stars as **Benny Green**, **Peter Apfelbaum**, **Michael Aaberg**, **Dave Ellis**, **Joshua Redman**, **Charlie Hunter** and **Ambrose Akinmusire**. The latest iteration includes such stars as flautist **Elena Pinderhughes** — younger sister of **Samora Pinderhughes**, who now a tenor [illegible] — as well as bassist **Erik Shiboski**, vibraphonist **Grant Mil liken**, pianist **Nick Lamb** and drummer **Lev Fasher** among others. They'll perform at this year's **Jazz on Fourth Street Festival**, designed to benefit music programs at Berkeley High School. Also on the bill: **Jazz Mafia Quintet**, **Jim Reinous**, **Zakiya Hooker** and the bewitching vocals of **Crystal Monee Hall**. At **Fourth Street Shopping District** (Hearst Ave. and Fourth St., Berkeley) on Monday, May 16. Noon-5 p.m. free. — *R.S.*

### Oakland East Bay Symphony

**Kurt Weill** and **Langston Hughes**' Broadway opera, **Street Scene**, deserves to be widely known. Its music is a delight, with wonderful tunal arias and jazz-flavored classical showmanship. The subject matter — love, power, greed, and the aspirations of every person — seems as relevant today as they were when the opera premiered in the late-1940s. Now **Oakland East Bay Symphony**, under the leadership of the imaginative **Michael Morgan**, presents an almost complete concert version as the fourth installment in its **American Masterworks Series**. In addition to such well respected soloists as **Angela Cadelago**, **Kristin Clayton**, **Kirk Eichelberger**, **Thomas Glenn**, and **Zachary Gordin**, performers include the **Oakland Symphony Chorus** under **Lynne Morrow** and the **Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir** under **Robert Geary**. Don't miss the preconcert talk by **John Kendall Bailey** at 7 p.m. Head to the **Paramount Theatre** (2025 Broadway, Oakland) on Friday, May 13. 8 p.m., $20-$65. OEBS.org — *Jason Victor Serinus*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Fri May 13 10:30pm
CROWN CITY ROCKERS
Sat May 14, 8pm
An Evening with FREDA PAYNE
Sat May 14 10:30pm
DJ QBERT + special guests
Sun May 15
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# C&C

## SATURDAY 14

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**[illegible]** Revolution Cafe, 8 p.m.
**Dylan Champaigne** Subterranean Arthouse, 9-11 p.m.
**Sol Patel** High Street Gospel, 7 p.m., $5-$10
**Summer of Glaciers** with Albert Stolen and Ted is the Branches, Grass Roots Cafe, 2-6 p.m., donations accepted
**Tara Hosley** with Matthew Charlesworth and Ryan Toth, The Berkeley Art House and Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m., $10

### Classical & Opera

**[illegible]** by [illegible] March Page, Rhythmik Cultural [illegible], 8 p.m., $10-$30

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Berkeley Tide** Jupiter, 6 p.m., free
**The Fender Mix of Jazz, Soul, & Comedy** with California Flight, Johnny B's, 8 p.m., $10-$15, includes free food
**Jazz & Joy** Bistro of Joy, 5:30 p.m., free
**Jazzschool Institute Performances** Jazzschool, free
**The Rippingtons featuring Russ Freeman** Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m., $35
**Sari Stone** dinner jazz with guest Matteo singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free
**Spoonful** [illegible] Social Club, 8:30 p.m., $10-$20
**[illegible]** [illegible] Social Club, 11 p.m., $10-$20

### Kids

**Los Amiguitos de La Merced** Saturday morning children's show w/ the music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 a.m., $6, kids $4

### Rock & Pop

**Bobby Joe Ebola and the Children MacNuggits** with New Earth Dreams, Mystic Knights Of The Cobra, Under 15 Bombs, [illegible], Eli's Mile High Club, 8 p.m.
**[illegible]** with [illegible], 924 Gilman, 8 p.m., $10
**Dennis & the Heathens** Cafe Van Kleef, 9 p.m.
**Dave Mystic** piano covers of [illegible] oldies, jazz, 8 p.m., Peter's Restaurant, 8 p.m., free
**[illegible] 21** with Hyperbolic and The [illegible], [illegible] Club, 9 p.m., $7
**Harrington Saints** with [illegible], Metro Opera House, 8 p.m., $7
**[illegible] of the New Pornographers** The New Parish, 8:30 p.m., $10-$13

### Rock Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**[illegible]** Dorsey's Locker, 8 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $16.50, $20.50

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**[illegible]** with Grupo [illegible], The New Parish, 8:30 p.m., $6
**Mystic Mike & Lakey** featuring [illegible] and Kyrzane Afro-Haitian [illegible] with [illegible] Dance Company at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 9:30 p.m., $10, $12
**[illegible]** [illegible], 8 p.m., free

## SAN FRANCISCO

### All Ages

**Hootenanny Night** Cafe International, 7 p.m., free

### Blues, Folk & Country

**[illegible] Tribute** 8:30 p.m., free
**[illegible]** the music w/ [illegible] Caffe Trieste, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., free

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Ana Mandara Trio** live jazz, Ana Mandara, 8-11:30 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Club Puppy, 7 & 10 p.m., $25-$70
**Eddie Pasternak and** w/ [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m., free
**Freda Payne Presents A Tribute to the Grand Ladies of Jazz: Ella, Lena & Sarah** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m., $30
**George Michalski** [illegible], 8:30 p.m.
**[illegible] Premiere of 'Appetite for Sushi,'** featuring Dee Spencer & the Galloway High School Jazz Band and Vocal Class, plus Tammy Lynne Hall's Jazz Trio, Yoshi's San Francisco, 1-2:30 p.m., $6
**[illegible]** review, OmniCircus, 1 p.m., $20
**Wendy Whitfield & the Mike Greensill Trio** Rrazz Room, 7:30 p.m., $35-$40-$45

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** with Fall On Plywood and [illegible], 9 p.m., $8
**[illegible]** with TSA and [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $8
**[illegible]** with Jeff the Brotherhood and Midnight Snacks, Bottom of the Hill, 10 p.m., $12
**[illegible]** with The Romany Rye, Slim's, 9 p.m., $15
**High Tension Wires** with [illegible], The (Portland) [illegible] Wood and [illegible], Rockit Room, 9:30 p.m., $10
**An Intimate [illegible]** The Independent, 9 p.m., $21
**[illegible]** The Riptide, 8:45 p.m.
**Man Man** with [illegible], Bimbo's 365 Club, 9 p.m., $18
**[illegible]** [illegible] Stop, 10 p.m., $8
**Stephen Kellogg** with [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $18-$22
**Still Time** plus [illegible] Lounge, 9 p.m., $12
**[illegible] Presents [illegible] Band** with [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8:30 p.m., $12
**[illegible]** with [illegible] Tavern, 8:30 p.m., $6

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**[illegible]** with Lettuce, The Fillmore, 9 p.m., $[illegible]

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**[illegible]** Red Poppy Art House, 8 p.m., $10-$15

## SUNDAY 15

## EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Savannah Unplugged** Jupiter, 5 p.m., free
**Americana Unplugged: [illegible]** Jupiter, 8 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Kensai Cafe, 5-7 p.m., free
**Jimmy's All-Star Super Sundays** Jimmy hosts a different blues band every week, Peter's Restaurant, 5 p.m., free
**Ragtime Skedaddlers** High Street [illegible], 3 p.m., $5-$15

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**10th Annual [illegible] Fourth Street [illegible]** with [illegible] Big Money Brass Band, Delta Wires, [illegible], and Berkeley High Jazz Ensemble & [illegible], Fourth Street Shopping District, 12-5 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.
**[illegible] Trio [illegible]** Yoshi's, 7 p.m., $[illegible]
**[illegible]** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m., $20.50-$22.50
**[illegible]** open mic jazz, [illegible] Coffee, 12-2 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Jazzschool, 7:30 p.m., $5-$15
**Jazz and R&B Night** Dorsey's Locker, 6-10 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Group & Contemporary Jazz, [illegible], 3-6 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Cafe Van Kleef, 8 p.m.
**[illegible] Big Band** Alameda Elks Lodge Rathskeller, 5-8 p.m., $20, couples $35
**[illegible]** [illegible], 5:30-8 p.m., free
**[illegible] Jazz Trio** The [illegible] Lounge, 6-8 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Jazzschool, 4:30 p.m., $15

### Rock & Pop

**Midnight** with Saviours, Lightning Swords Of Death (L.A.), and [illegible], Eli's Mile High Club, 8 p.m., $10
**System of a Down** with Gogol Bordello, Shoreline Amphitheatre, 7:30 p.m., $25-$60

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**Foreign Legion** [illegible] Music, 8 p.m.-1 p.m., free
**[illegible] Live Sessions** Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free before 10:30 p.m., $5 [illegible]

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**[illegible]** with [illegible] Allstars, guitarist [illegible], [illegible] Bowers, Sweetfoot & the Island Manners, members of Caribbean Allstars, Yiddish dance led by Bruce Bierman, and a Flamenco showcase, Ashkenaz, 4-10 p.m., donations accepted
**[illegible]** Afro-Cuban [illegible] percussion & dance jam, Cafe [illegible], 3-10 p.m., free
**[illegible]** [illegible], 8:15 p.m., $10

## SAN FRANCISCO

### Blues, Folk & Country

**[illegible] Social Band** Hotel Utah, 12-3 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8:30 p.m., $7
**[illegible]** blues jam, Skip's Tavern, 6:30 p.m., free
**[illegible]** Thee Parkside, 8 p.m., free
**Songwriter Sundays** rotating [illegible] perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m.-midnight, $5
**[illegible]** [illegible] House, 8 p.m., free

### Classical & Opera

**[illegible]** on piano for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., $59 for brunch plus gratuity and [illegible]

### Gospel & Vocal

**Gospel Brunch** w/ Future Perfect & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $39, includes brunch
**SF [illegible] University Gospel Choir** featuring a 75-piece choir and band, Yoshi's San Francisco, 1 & 8 p.m., $20

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**[illegible]** [illegible] revue and [illegible] of pop-culture figures in which [illegible] travels the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Puppy, 2 & 5 p.m., $25-$27
**[illegible]** Gospel [illegible] series, [illegible], 9 p.m., $20-$30, [illegible] and show
**Vince Lateano & [illegible]** featuring [illegible], 5:30-8:30 p.m., $5
**Wendy Whitfield & the Mike Greensill Trio** Rrazz Room, 5 p.m., $35, $40, $45

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible]** with [illegible] Tavern, 9 p.m., $6
**[illegible]** with Shane [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] Music Hall, 7 p.m., $18
**[illegible]** with Rough Waters and The Beloved Creatures, Hotel Utah, 9 p.m., $8
**[illegible]** with [illegible] Illustrated, Cafe du Nord, 8 p.m., $12

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**[illegible]** with [illegible] The

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Who's Got Soul?

# Rasputin Music celebrates 40 years with a Search for Soul

words and photos by Will Seeley

vote for your favorites online at www.rasputinmusic.com

**The finale is May 21st in Jack London Square. Come root for your favorites!**

The contest is still open to anyone who wants to join.

May 11th at Rasputin in Berkeley, May 18th at Rasputin in San Lorenzo

All rounds are free and open to the public

Forty years. FORTY years! That's how long Rasputin Music has been in business in Berkeley and the Bay Area.

A lot has happened in that time, it's hard to even imagine it. There was the lingering aftermath of the sixties, which kind of never left Telegraph Ave where Rasputin has made its home. The rise of punk rock. Hair metal, along with the Reagan era and the PMRC. The ascendancy of hip hop, grunge, boy bands, auto-tune. In the time Rasputin has been in business, Tower Records came and went, along with other lesser record stores. The cassette tape came and went, vinyl died and came back. VHS rose and fell, then DVDs and blu ray appeared. CDs appeared and then had to do battle with MP3s.

Through all of that, Rasputin Music has survived, thrived and maintained a staunch local, iconoclastic path. The store has expanded into a chain, with the last expansion involving taking over dead Tower stores, but staying local even then. So, to celebrate forty years, they decided to do something fun.

Over the years, Rasputin has hosted lots of instore performances with musicians big and small, famous and not. The Black Eyed Peas did a show there, before they hooked up with Fergie and became mega-stars. Locals like Ledisi and Goapele played shows at Rasputin and parlayed their DIY indie CD sales with Rasputin and other independent stores into greater success and record contracts. So why not have a contest that celebrates local up-and-coming talent? Why not try to highlight the music community of the Bay Area at large, whether it's rap, soul, rock, metal, what-have-you?

The idea is to have actually a series of talent contests, held at Rasputin stores and also at other local venues, each contest focusing on a different kind of music. The first one, which is happening now, as you read this, is for R&B and soul. "There's such a wealth of talent all around us," said Rasputin marketing director Tom Chandler. "We'd love to see some of these great musicians get more exposure."

To that end, the winner of the contest, dubbed "Who's Got Soul?", will open the show at the KBLX Stone Soul Concert May 29th at the Concord Pavilion, and Rasputin will send their demo or CD for consideration by City Hall Records, the Bay Area's distribution haven for local music. "We'll also be celebrating the winner online, with our web store and social media," Chandler mentions. "Our goal is really to help our winners reach a bigger audience, at all levels, whether in the traditional, so-called "physical" world, or in the virtual world."

The contest will be judged by established Bay Area singers, including Berkeley songstress Netta B, Rod (whose smash hit on KMEL smash was "I Can't Stand You") and the Bay Area's go-girl Jimmne Reign, as well as by KBLX staff. The final will be held outdoors at Jack London Square on May 21st.

"Be on the lookout for more contests this year," said Chandler. "We've got hip-hop coming up next!"

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## MONDAY 16

### EAST BAY

**Blues, Folk & Country**

**[illegible] Hobbs"** live burlesque w/ Hubba Hubba Revue. The [illegible], 8 p.m., $5

**West Coast Songwriters Competition** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 7:30 p.m., $8.50-$10.50

**Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret**

**Holy Sh!t** Cafe Van Kleef, 5 p.m.

**Jazz on 4th Street Station for Berkeley High Music Program** with Berkeley High jazz combos, Jazz Mafia Quintet, The Rhondos, and Zakiya Hooker. Fourth Street Shopping District, 12-5 p.m., free

**Northgate High Jazz Band** Yoshi's, 6 & 10 p.m., $12-$15

**Rock & Pop**

**X-Ray Eyeballs (Unknown of Gentle Triangle)** with Shannon and the Clams, Eli's Mile High Club, 5 p.m.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Blues, Folk & Country**

**The [illegible] Jam with A.J.** Ship's Tavern, 7:30 p.m., free

**Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret**

**Le Jazz Hot** [illegible] Colonial, 8 p.m., free

**[illegible] Jam** Amnesia, 8 p.m., free

**5 Salute to the Joy of Sunday: [illegible]** A benefit for Community Music Center's youth scholarship fund featuring music, wine, and food, [illegible]. Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 p.m., $50-$85 for a [illegible], table of 5

**Rock & Pop**

**[illegible]** Johnny Foley's Irish House, 8 p.m., free

**The [illegible]** with [illegible] and The [illegible], [illegible], 5 p.m., $10

**[illegible]** with The [illegible] and [illegible], [illegible], 8 p.m., $18

**An Evening with Chris Robinson Brotherhood** [illegible], The Independent, 5 p.m., $15

**An Evening [illegible]** [illegible] in their entirety, Great American Music Hall, May [illegible], 5 p.m., $22.50

**[illegible]** with Saviours, Lightning [illegible], Of Death (L.A.), and [illegible] (San Diego), Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $10

## TUESDAY 17

### EAST BAY

**Blues, Folk & Country**

**Berkeley [illegible] Night** w/ Stephen [illegible], [illegible] Bar & Grill, 7:30-11 p.m., free

**[illegible]** Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson with Frank Castillo at 8 p.m., Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $10

**Jam Night** w/ [illegible] Station, Mojo Lounge, 8:30 p.m., free

**[illegible]** Pete's [illegible], 7:30-9 p.m., free

**Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret**

**Eddie Pasternak Duo** w/ [illegible], Cafe Rouge, 6:30 p.m., free

**Rootsmusic Tuesdays** featuring students from the Berkeley music school, Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

**Albatross [illegible] & [illegible]** Nick's Lounge, 8-10 p.m., free

**Bay Area [illegible] featuring [illegible]** Yoshi's, 8 p.m., $20

**[illegible]** Open jam with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 8 p.m., free

**Rock & Pop**

**[illegible] Music Box Presents** Berkeley guests from Rogue Wave, Crown City Rockers, Persephone's Bees, Bright Eyes, & more. The Uptown, 10 p.m., free

**[illegible] Lodge** with Prison Library, Family [illegible], and Twin [illegible], Eli's Mile High Club, 8 p.m.

**Talk Tina** with Whisky Avengers and Dirty Pillows, Stork Club, 9 p.m., $5

**Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop**

## VENUE DIRECTORY

### EAST BAY

**[illegible] on Solano** 1400 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-[illegible]
**924 Gilman** 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926
**Air Bar & Lounge** 477 9th St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-2311
**Albatross Pub** 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473. AlbatrossPub.com
**The Alley** 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505
**[illegible] Plaza** 2455 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1125
**Armando's** 707 Marina Vista Ave., Martinez, 925-228-8085
**Art House Gallery & Cultural Center** 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170
**Ashkenaz** 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054
**The Baltic** 135 Park Pl., Point Richmond, 510-234-1000
**Bay [illegible] Club** 5600 Bay St., Emeryville
**[illegible] Bar** 511 17th St., Oakland, 510-444-2200
**[illegible] Center for the Arts** 1801 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-523-8864
**The Bistro** 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-886-8525
**Caffe Trieste** 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5198
**[illegible] Club** 1008 Walnut St. #B, Berkeley, 510-849-3095
**Club 1220** 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550
**Club 21** 2111 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-9425
**Club Anton** 428 3rd St., Oakland, 510-491-5686
**Coffee Mill** 3363 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4224
**Conga Lounge** 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-463-2681
**Dan's Irish Sports Bar** 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-938-1331
**[illegible]** 941 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-0201
**Eagles Hall** 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-285-0986
**Easy Lounge** 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-338-4341
**Era Art Bar and Lounge** 19 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-832-4400
**Everett & Jones Barbeque** 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350
**First Congregational Church** 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696
**First Unitarian Church** 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3595
**Fox Oakland** 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, TheFoxOakland.com
**[illegible]** 811 W Tennyson Rd., Hayward, 510-[illegible]
**Freight & Salvage** 2020 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-644-2020
**Hertz Hall** UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley, 510-642-9988
**High Street Station** 1303 High St., Alameda, 510-995-8049
**[illegible] Paradise Club** 1450 Webster St., Alameda, 510-986-3225
**Jazzschool** 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373
**Jewish Community Center of the East Bay** 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237
**[illegible]** 1513 Park St., Alameda, 510-523-3835
**Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden** 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2385
**Jupiter** 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277
**[illegible] City** 1408 Webster St., Oakland, 510-251-0700
**Kimball's Carnival** 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-6408
**King Tsin Chinese Restaurant** 1699 Solano Ave., Berkeley
**Kingman's Lucky Lounge** 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464
**Kingman's Ivy Room** 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888
**Kitty's** 6525 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-601-9300
**La Peña Cultural Center** 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568
**Lake Merritt United Methodist Church** 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4793
**Lakeshore Baptist Church** 3534 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-893-2484
**Laney College Theater** 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-464-3543
**The Lounge** 1517 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-834-1511
**[illegible] Station** 2320 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4700
**Lounge 3411** 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland
**[illegible] & Station** 2228 [illegible] Way, Oakland, 510-451-4611
**[illegible] Sports Bar** 2731 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7600
**[illegible] Lounge** 341 13th St., Oakland, 510-839-4269
**Mills College** 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-2255
**[illegible] Lounge** 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2080
**The New Parish** 579 18th St., Oakland, TheNewParish.com
**[illegible] Cafe** 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344
**Oakland City Center** 500 12th St., Oakland, 510-238-6898
**Oakland Metro Operahouse** 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146
**ORACLE Arena** 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121
**[illegible] Lounge** 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-238-9935
**Paramount Theatre** 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400
**The New Parish** 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474
**Peter's Restaurant** 33 Lafayette Cir., Lafayette, 925-284-7137
**Quinn's Lighthouse** 1951 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, 510-536-2050
**Radio** 435 13th St., Oakland
**Rhythmix Cultural Works** 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda, 510-865-5060
**[illegible] Saloon** 3553 [illegible], Lafayette, 925-284-4811
**[illegible] Roadhouse** 1790 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-521-9150
**Ruby Room** 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224
**Saddle Rack** 42011 Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-979-0411
**Shattuck Down Low** 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159
**[illegible]** 2400 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste 138, San Ramon
**Shoreline Amphitheatre** One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000
**Speisekammer** 2424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300
**Spoontonic Lounge** 2680 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-472-8888
**St. Mark's Episcopal Church** 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-848-5107
**St. John's Presbyterian Church** 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830
**Starry Plough** 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082
**Stork Club** 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174
**[illegible] 1510** 1510 8th St., Oakland
**Subterranean Art House** 2179 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-681-3281
**[illegible]** 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-853-8889
**[illegible]** 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-6100
**Vinnie's Bar & Grill** 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-685-9515
**[illegible] Vineyards Roadhouse** 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450
**[illegible] Restaurant** UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4290
**White Horse Inn** 6551 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820
**Yoshi's** 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
**Zellerbach Hall** UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988
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**Doobray Band** North Shift, 9:30 p.m. $10

### Experimental & Avant-Garde

**Eligall Indian** with Ava Mendoza, Grasping Energy and Mangled Expressions. Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m. $7

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Bill Evening Trio** Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 p.m. $25

**Bruce Albert & Lori Hall** Palace of Fine Arts, 8 p.m. $57.50

**Lounge: W/ a Houseboppers** Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 p.m. $7

**Marty Eggers** Pier 15, 9:30 p.m. free

**Steven Scales** playing soft jazz piano. Top of the Mark, 6:30-[illegible] p.m., $5-10

**Swing, Night Jump!** Stompy Jones plays retro jazz plus a swing dance lesson. Verdi Club, 9 p.m. $10-$12

**Indian [illegible] & the Jerry Oconnell Trio** Rrazz Room, 7:30 p.m., $35, $40, $45

### Rock & Pop

**[illegible] Tom** with The Heavenly States Slim's, 8 p.m. $21

**Diego's Ukulele Park** Chisel Destroy 6:30 p.m., free

**An Evening With [illegible] performing** Moutin, Egging, It Eyed It Their [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $22.50

**J. Loan Presents Sound of Presents** with Dalls and Swedish Record Café du Nord, 9 p.m. $30

**Jon Peg** with Sistnt of Gaaz and Garrett Pfame Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $10

**Johnny Hymn & The [illegible]** with Caitlin Ryne The Independent, 8 p.m. $15

**Live 11? [illegible] Whiskey Party [illegible]** with the Ligagoes, Afghan Raiders, and Pfresh Band Rickshaw Stop, 1:30 p.m. $10.53

**[illegible] Wynda (of Flasher)** with [illegible] Shapes (of Rections n Vegas) and Elea Rose, Hotel Utah, 5 p.m. $8

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**Dosconid Vou** Consual edition with DJ P-Thed and DJ Carioca, plus special live guests [illegible] Funk and vibrations. Elbo Room, 9 p.m., $7

## WEDNESDAY 18

# EAST BAY

### Blues, Folk & Country

**Indian Saylor** with Mike Oppenheim and Mike Barnes. Mama Buzz Café, 7 p.m., donations accepted

**Glen Oblysen** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $24.50, $28.50

**Mike Pfonter** High Wood Trellis 7:30 p.m., $5-$15

**Whiskey Brothers** old-time and bluegrass. Albatross Pub, 9 p.m., free

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Don Luck [illegible] Night** Subterranean Arthouse, 9 p.m.

**Dan Saul & the Sound Jump** Rooster's Roadhouse, 8:30 p.m. free

**[illegible] a Big Phat Band, [illegible] the Albany Music Fund** Yoshi's, 8 & 10 p.m., $20, $25

**Jazz Tuners Performance Band with Carl [illegible]** 57th Street Gallery, 6-8 p.m.

**Live Jazz** Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 p.m., free

**The New Trio** Agent, 8 p.m. free

**peg Indian** Kaiser jazz with guest [illegible] singers. The Alley, 9 p.m. free

**Will [illegible]** piano music, Caspo's Bread [illegible] 6-9 p.m. free

### Rock & Pop

**Agent Orange** with Civil War Rust, Band For Feelings. Vox Ultra Lounge 9 p.m., $5

**Agent [illegible]** with The Hot [illegible] and Bam Bam! The Uptown, 9 p.m., free

**Bruce Hooley** piano covers of popular oldies, jazz, & pop. Peter's Restaurant, 8 p.m., free

**Intern and Intern Personas Dig Dab!** This week: Rock Fight, [illegible] Criminal, Atomic Mechanics, and Go Time! The Uptown, 9 p.m. free

**Landmines** with [illegible] A Story [illegible] Ruin, and AC Way. Eli's Mile High Club, 9 p.m.

**Mod Night** Spoonbonic Lounge 8 p.m., free

**Ramayanda** with [illegible] Inline Arena. 8 p.m. $30, $50, $60

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**Doo [illegible]** with Mel Yel, Foreign Legion, Baby Jaymes, Westacy, Mic T, The Dime, DJ Tim Diesel and Roo-G, Raleigh, 9:30 p.m., $5 Band 10 p.m., $8 thereafter

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**Agapi Mas** Playing the songs of Greece, Albania, Armenia, and Turkey. Cafe Volante, 9:15 p.m., $5

**Caribbean Night** with Reggae Flash and DJ [illegible] Roosey's Indian 7-11 p.m., free

# SAN FRANCISCO

### Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

**Brandi [illegible] Batyloo** Club Fugazi, 8 p.m. $25-$17

**Doo 'Francis and the [illegible] Combo** Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 p.m., $10

**Djangofuskin** w/ Gaucho & Michael Abraham Amnesia, 7 p.m.

**Gaucho** w/ the Micah Marcus Sextet, Amnesia 8 p.m. free

**Indian Winfield & the Mike Greensill Trio** Rrazz Room 7:30 p.m. $35, $40, $45

### Rock & Pop

**The Fiery Furnaces (One Show)** Cafe du Nord 9 p.m. $20

**[illegible]** with The Low Anthem and Ann[illegible] meet. Bottom of the Hill, 9 p.m. $8

**Apostolics** with Heads (final show), and Venture. Elbo Room, 9 p.m. $17 $13

**Kristeen Young** with City of [illegible] Hotel Utah, 8 p.m. $6

**Ford Kite SF #12: Band Band [illegible] the Science of Magic and Youth Memory** Rickshaw Stop, 7:20 p.m., $6

**Indian / Please** with the Talking Door, featuring Bill Gould and Dandling Sound Great American Music Hall, 8 p.m. $20

**This Will Destroy You** with special guests Pure Ecstasy and Sleep? Over, The Independent, 9 p.m. $20

**This Will Destroy You** with Pure X and Sleep? Over The Independent, 8 p.m. $12

**X-Ray Eyeballs (members of [illegible] Triangle)** with King Lollipop and Burnt Ones. Hemlock Tavern, 9 p.m. $6

### Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

**Cunninlynguists** with Homeboy Sandman and Tonedeff Slim's, 8 p.m. $16

### World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

**Freddy Clarke and [illegible]** Peña Pachamama, 8 p.m. $12

**Lounge: Lisa Silva & Voz do Brasil** Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 p.m. $7

**Jesse Sosa (Quintet) with John [illegible]** 12th International Arts Festival opening night performance. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $30, $28, $25

*Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.*

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www.slims-sf.com
333 11th St. (btwn Folsom & Harrison) San Francisco 415/255-0333

[illegible] MAY [illegible] $[illegible] ADV/$[illegible] DOOR DOORS [illegible] SHOW [illegible]
ROGER CLYNE & THE PEACEMAKERS
THE FAMOUS

FRI MAY 13 THE BLACK ANGELS SOLD OUT!

SAT MAY 14 $15 ADV/$18 DOOR DOORS 8 SHOW 9
HAYES CARLL
THE ROMANY RYE

MON MAY 16 $18 ADV/$18 DOOR DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
EISLEY
THE NARRATIVE — CHRISTIE DUPREE

TUES MAY 17 $22 ADV/$22 DOOR DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
BUFFALO TOM
THE HEAVENLY STATES

WED MAY 18 $16 ADV/$18 DOOR DOORS 8 SHOW 9
CUNNINLYNGUISTS
HOMEBOY SANDMAN
TONEDEFF — BLUE SKY BLACK DEATH

THURS MAY 19 $22 ADV/$22 DOOR DOORS 7:30, SHOW 8
SHAWN MULLINS
CALLAGHAN

FRI MAY 20 $15 ADV/$15 DOOR DOORS 8 SHOW 9
THIS CHARMING BAND
A TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHS / MORRISSEY
FOR THE MASSES — A TRIBUTE TO DEPECHE MODE
SING BLUE SILVER — A TRIBUTE TO DURAN DURAN

SAT MAY 21 $13 ADV/$13 DOOR DOORS 8, SHOW 9
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THE FEROCIOUS FEW
CHARLES GONZALEZ & THE STEREO GLITTER
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[illegible]

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WED MAY 11 $[illegible] ADV/$[illegible] DOOR DOORS 7:30 SHOW 8
THE LOW ANTHEM
DANIEL LEFKOWITZ

FRI MAY 13 $25 ADV/$28 DOOR DOORS 8 SHOW 9
PETER BJORN & JOHN
BACHELORETTE

SUN MAY 15 $15 ADV/$18 DOOR DOORS 6 SHOW 7
CODY SIMPSON & GREYSON CHANCE
DIANE HARPER — CAMRYN

MON & TUES MAY 16 & 17 $22.50 ADV/$22.50 DOOR DOORS 8, SHOW 9 AN EVENING WITH
MELVINS
[illegible]

WED MAY 18 $21 ADV/$21 DOOR DOORS 7 SHOW 8
PIVIXKI / PATTON
THE TALKING BOOK
FEATURING BILL GOULD & GIGANTE SOUND

THURS MAY 19 $20 ADV/$20 DOOR DOORS 7 SHOW 8
[illegible] PRESENTS
THE KNITTERS
FEATURING JOHN DOE, EXENE CERVENKA, DAVE ALVIN, DJ BONEBRAKE & JONNY RAY BARTEL
KASEY ANDERSON

FRI MAY 20 $17 ADV/$20 DOOR DOORS 8 SHOW 9
POOR MAN'S WHISKEY
DEAD WINTER CARPENTERS

SUN MAY 22 JAMES BLAKE SOLD OUT!

WED MAY 25 $18 ADV/$18 DOOR DOORS 8 SHOW 9
ALOE BLACC
THE STEPKIDS

[illegible]
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WED 5/11 THE BUMPTET 8-10 [illegible] featuring [illegible], Jonathan Stoyanoff, [illegible] and Zack [illegible] brings a love of [illegible] sophistication to each performance with an improvisational, genre-bending approach to music. Their compositions range in style and complexity, moving from deep funk grooves to epic rock crescendos to intricate fusion-esque [illegible] lines.
www.thebumptet.com

THUR 5/12 SELECTOR, DJ DELON & DANGEROUS ALIEN [illegible] DJ-hero Alain Grimelle and DJ Delon lays it down with his patented blend of no-jazz, downtempo and electric soul goodness. Tonight, we welcome in guest DJ Dangerous Alien out of Oakland, bringing his unique take on hip-hop, dubstep, and breaks to the Jup.
www.soundcloud.com/djdelon
soundcloud.com/dj-dangerous-alien

FRI 5/13 LOVEBEAT [illegible] LOVEBEAT [illegible] After a brief hiatus, the Jamp [illegible] Bay Area where they [illegible] to bring their unique brand of [illegible] in venues in the Bay Area and beyond. Lovebeat exploits its [illegible] allowing each member an equal voice.
www.myspace.com/lovebeat
KAT 010 5:30-7:00 The mighty Kat 010 of the [illegible] City [illegible] your weekend [illegible] off right.
www.[illegible].com/kat010

SAT 5/14 DOPPLER TRIO [illegible] Erik Hoagland brings East and West coasts together with The Doppler Trio [illegible] original compositions, [illegible] interpretations of the great American Songbook, Thelonious Monk and Wayne Shorter pieces, [illegible] and [illegible] traditional songs, heavy metal classics and free improvisation.
www.myspace.com/thedopplertrio

SUN 5/15 AMERICANA UNPLUGGED: SAVANNAH BLUE [illegible] This Marin based bluegrass five piece is a great [illegible] become a staple for us at Sundays and just keep getting better and better. Gary Kaye and friends will be in the house and they'll be [illegible] for you!
www.myspace.com/savannahbluegrass

[illegible]

Ashkenaz
Music & Dance Community Center

WED 5/11 8:00 pm $7 — FOLK DANCE — BALKAN FOLKDANCE — 7 pm dance lessons

THU 5/12 9:00 pm $10 — FOLK JAM/BLUES — WHISKEYMAN + TREVOR GARROD & THE FORTUNATES

FRI 5/13 9:00 pm $12 — NORTH AFRICAN — MOH ALILECHE ENSEMBLE + THE CUNES

SAT 5/14 9:30 pm $13 $10 adv/stu — HAITIAN FLAG DAY CELEBRATION — MYSTIC MAN & LAKAY with NOSZONE and KYMARIE — 8 pm Afro-Haitian dance lesson

SUN 5/15 6-9 pm — FUNDRAISER FOR ASHKENAZ — ASHKENAZ FRIENDRAISER featuring catered dinner & entertainment showcase. RSVP required, e-mail booking@ashkenaz.com

TUE 5/17 8:30 pm $10 — CAJUN — COUSTABLEU — 8 pm Cajun Zydeco dance lesson

WED 5/18 9:30 pm $8 $5 before 10 pm — HIP HOP — DUE ESQUIRE, MEL YEL, BABY JAYMES, WESTACY, MIC T., THE DIME + DJs TIM DIESEL & ROO-G — hosted by TONY SPARRA

THU 5/19 8:30 pm $10 — CONSCIOUS ROOTS GROOVES & HIP HOP — LYRIC FOUNDRY, MAMA CROW & FRIENDS, ZAHIRA SOUL, REALONA FUNNEAUX

5/20 GRASSMENAZERI: THE SHOTS, ZEJ & CALEN
5/21 MARK KARAN & JEMIMAH PUDDLEDUCK
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5/26 BOB DYLAN 70th B-DAY with ALL STAR CAST!

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5/14 DOOR 8PM $7
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DJ'S GSTAR & ASTRD

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# DJ & DANCE

## THURSDAY 12

### EAST BAY

**Superpine Night** DJ Inas DJ Joe G. spin hip-hop, R&B, [illegible] & Top 40. Allen Marks Inn. 9 p.m. $3, free for [illegible].

**Club Fever** Sound Club [illegible] spins reggae & dancehall. Shadowcane Restaurant, 10 p.m., free

**Drama Glam** w/ DJs Kool Karie & Club Fe, Shattuck Down Low. 9 p.m., free

**Vandoms Thursdays** Boots, 10 p.m., free

**DJ [illegible] & [illegible]** Allen Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

**DJ Jerry Ross** spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more. Easy Lounge, 10 p.m., free

**DJ [illegible]** spinning Lounge. Last Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ DJs Pine Boots & Sans Pants, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

**Boogie Boogie** with DJs Poizen, Kool Kyle [illegible] Jee. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**[illegible]** indie pop, mash-ups, new wave, Boots, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

**[illegible]** ladies night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 p.m., $12-$15

**[illegible] Thursdays** featuring DJs Carlos Mena [illegible]. Uptown Bar, 9 p.m., free

## FRIDAY 13

### EASY BAY

**Allen DJ Party Fridays** DJs TNWS, Lonnie Boogie, & Short Nut spin dancehall, reggae, & R&B. New Karibbean City, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., $5 to $10

**Ore Job** w/ DJs Eddy Boone and his Friends spinning [illegible] slow jams. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

**Club 21** w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15

**[illegible]** w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spinning the [illegible] music in the Bay Area. Allen Marks Inn, 9 p.m., $5

**DJ [illegible] Soul Club [illegible]** The Layover, 10 p.m., free

**Boots 2nd Fridays** featuring DJ Soul Curtains, Era Art Bar Lounge, 9 p.m., $10

**Friday Nite Jams w/ DJ [illegible]** Foros, 10 p.m., $5

**Latin [illegible]** DJ Jorge Estente spins cumbia, salsa, merengue, banda, Spanish pop, & more. [illegible] Bar, 9 p.m., $6-$15

**Mandala** weekly [illegible] DJ series, Awesome Music, 9-10 p.m., free

**Mighty Irie** DJs Rockin' Lou, & Smoke-One spin reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $10

**Old-School** hip-hop [illegible], Boots, 9 p.m., free

**[illegible] Night with DJ [illegible]** spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B. Island Paradise Club, 10 p.m., ladies free before 11:30 p.m.

**Quixotic** DJ Joe Quinn spins funk, Latin, & [illegible]. Easy Lounge, 10 p.m., free

**Retro-licious** [illegible] hosts '80s [illegible] night, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**Sattry Fridays** DJ Lush & Fat Boss spin R&B & soul. Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m., $6

**Touchy** DJ [illegible] spins northern soul, Motown, '60s, disco, funk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room, 10 p.m., free

**[illegible] Beat Fridays** DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] soca, samba, salsa, merengue, dancehall, reggae, bhangra, [illegible]. Cango Lounge, 10 p.m.

## SATURDAY 14

### EAST BAY

**AD Productions & [illegible]** DJs spinning R&B & hip-hop, Fawn, 10 p.m., free

**Angel [illegible]** DJs East, [illegible] & Young Fresh & [illegible] spin hip-hop, reggae, & dancehall. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $15

**The Boots Yard** [illegible] by Sean Kennedy, Moses Mene, 2 p.m., free

**[illegible] Maxwell's** DJs Jerry Wells & [illegible] Profess spin R&B, soul, funk, reggae, & hip-hop. Maxwell's Lounge, 9 p.m., $10

**[illegible]** w/ DJ [illegible] & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. [illegible] Bar, 9 p.m., $6-$12

**Country Saturdays** followed by hip-hop & house at midnight, Club 1220, 8:30 p.m.-midnight, $5

**Dancehall [illegible]** w/ [illegible] spinning reggae, dancehall, & hip-hop. The Avenue, 9 p.m., free

**DJ Night** [illegible] spinning [illegible] pop, mind blowing [illegible], & urban hip-hop, [illegible] Restaurant, 9:30 p.m., free

**The Foof Boots The Love [illegible]** with DJs [illegible] and [illegible], Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10

**& Boots & Sexy Allen** w/ DJs spinning reggae, soca, & hip-hop. New Karibbean City, 9 p.m., $15

**Hello Bay** with DJs [illegible], and rotating guests, The Uptown, 9 p.m., $5

**Superstar Saturday Night** w/ DJ [illegible], Allen [illegible], 9 p.m., $5

**La Rosa Loca** Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & [illegible], plus [illegible]. Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15

**Magic [illegible]** DJ Boots & guests host [illegible] extravaganza, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**Boots Latina** DJ Tropic [illegible] spins merengue, cumbia, vallenato, reggaeton, reggae en espagnol & [illegible]. Cango Lounge, 10 p.m., free

**[illegible]** The Layover, 10 p.m., free

**Pop Fridays 300** [illegible] spin pop hits from [illegible] to Michael Jackson, Ruby Boots, 10 p.m., free

**Soul [illegible]** w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & boogie. The [illegible] Lounge, 10 p.m., free

**[illegible]** [illegible] & [illegible] spin old-school hip-hop, soul, club bangers, & more. Boots, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

**[illegible]** DJs from the [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spin classic party anthems & [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m., $10

**[illegible]** w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B. The Missouri Lounge, 9:30 p.m., free

## SUNDAY 15

### EAST BAY

**Boots by [illegible]** boots, funk, & more, Easy Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**[illegible]** spinning with no vinyl, Bar 355, 10 p.m., free

**DJ [illegible]** Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**Fresh Steps** w/ DJ [illegible] & rotating live performers. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**King of Kings** DJ Smoke-One [illegible] guests spin reggae, dancehall, roots, & lovers' rock. Shattuck Down Low, 9 p.m., $10, ladies/students free before 11 p.m.

**Lay it Down Sundays** featuring DJ Tim Sweet, The Layover, 2 p.m., free

**[illegible]** w/ DJ [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & Afrobeat [illegible]. [illegible], 9 p.m., free

**Uncle Pan's [illegible] Sundays** DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & roots reggae. The Motley Savoy Club, 1 p.m., free

## MONDAY 16

### EAST BAY

**DJ Boots** hosts Volante, 9 p.m., free

**DJs [illegible]** spinning [illegible] and [illegible]. Shattuck Down Low, 9:30 p.m., $5

**[illegible] (Bike Night)** featuring DJs spinning rock and a bike mechanic, The Layover, 9:30 p.m., free

**Monday Soul** spinning DJs D-Sharp, Doctor, The New Parish, 10 p.m., $6

**Underground Lounge** psychic '60s & '70s music, [illegible], 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

**Wanna Hang Out?** w/ DJ [illegible] spinning rock and roll, soft hits, oldies, & soul. The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

## TUESDAY 17

### EAST BAY

**DJ [illegible]** spinning punk, Last Weekend Lounge, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., free

**Escape** vintage night featuring DJ Spoody & DJ Kozy, Club 21, 9 p.m., $10

**[illegible] Spins Vinyl** hosts Volante, 9 p.m., free

**Soul Fyah** Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 p.m.

**Stay Punk!** w/ DJ [illegible] spinning oldies, punk, [illegible], & metal, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m., free

**Vintage** DJ [illegible] & guests Allen [illegible] cuts from the 80's Lounge, [illegible] Lakeside East, 7 p.m., free

## WEDNESDAY 18

### EAST BAY

**80's Night with Mr. DNA** Mr. DNA spins songs from the '80s, plus [illegible] spinning by Cory. Easy Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**Kamp Hey** w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] Artisan, The Missouri Lounge, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., free

**Hot Jol Sol** with DJ [illegible] and special guests, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

**The Jump Off: Hemp Hey** spinning w/ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 p.m., $6-$15

**Persuasion** Latin [illegible] night w/ host Volante, [illegible] Bar, 7 p.m., $6-$15

**[illegible]** Punk, oldies, new wave, & [illegible] rock w/ DJ Jason Owen Money, [illegible]. Boots, 11 p.m.-2 a.m., free

**Something Special** The Layover, 9:30 p.m., free

**Wavo Wednesdays** DJ Santero & rotating guests spin salsa, samba, merengue, reggaeton, & more, plus Allen [illegible] sons, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 p.m., free

# PICK

**BADNB**

Drum 'n' bass may have become less visible in the Bay Area after its renaissance in the mid Nineties, but it certainly didn't die. New historic parties like Phunkateek and Elektric — where local singer **Audio Angel** got her initial star turn — have since spawned offshoots like **Bay Area Drum N Bass** collective (**BADNB**), a loose collection of DJs who specialize in jungle, ragga, soulful breaks, glitchy breakbeats, and any type of electronic dance music that keeps most of its weight on the bottom. BADNB hosts a night of drum 'n' bass at **Club Six** (60 Sixth St., San Francisco) this Saturday May 14, featuring DJs Cannibal and Angel, plus a little crooning from Audio Angel herself. 9 p.m., free before 10 p.m., $5. ClubSix1.com — *Rachel Swan*

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SUN 5/15 1PM $10 — JAI JOSEFS SONGWRITER SHOWCASE

THU 5/19 9PM $8 — BARONS OF TANG (AUSTRALIA)

FRI 5/20 9:30PM $10 — LITTLE WINGS

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**
**CASE NUMBER: RG11572772**
[illegible]

**NOTICE OF HEARING**
August 26, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. 31 at 201 13th St., 2nd Floor Oakland, CA 94612
[illegible]
Dated: April 25, 2011
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
**5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25/2011**

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**
[illegible]

**Fictitious Business Name Statement**
[illegible]

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**
[illegible]
NOTICE OF HEARING
August 26, 2011 at 11:00 A.M. in Dept. 31, at 201 13th St. 2nd Floor Oakland, CA 94612
[illegible]
Dated: April 25, 2011
Signed: [illegible]
Judge of the Superior Court
**5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25/2011**

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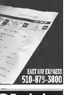

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T.S. No. 11-2884-11 Loan No. [illegible] NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Richard S. Park, an unmarried man and Kathryn [illegible], an unmarried woman Duly Appointed Trustee: The Wolf Firm, A Law Corporation Recorded [illegible] as Instrument No. [illegible] of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, Date of Sale: [illegible]/2011 at 12:00 PM Place of Sale: At the Fallon St emergency exit to the Alameda County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon St., Oakland, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: [illegible] Address or other common designation of real property: 1500 Park Avenue #[illegible] Emeryville, CA 94608 A.P.N.: [illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Date: 5/9/2011 The Wolf Firm, A Law Corporation 2955 Main Street, 2nd Floor Irvine, California 92614 (949) 720-9200 Foreclosure Dept. Fax (949) 608-0130 Sale Information Only: (714) 573-1965 Renae C. Murray, Foreclosure Manager [illegible] 5/11, 5/18, 5/25/2011

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 09-01[illegible] Title Order No. 09-8-[illegible] Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. 049-1547-[illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 07/26/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by DORA G. BOYSTER, SINGLE WOMAN, dated 07/26/2005 and recorded [illegible], as Instrument No. 2005[illegible], in Book , Page ), of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 05/25/2011 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1121 40TH STREET, EMERYVILLE, CA 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $343,835.46. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 12/03/2009 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# [illegible] 05/04/2011, 05/11/2011, 05/18/2011

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 11-[illegible] Title Order No. 11-[illegible] Investor/Insurer No. [illegible] APN No. [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED [illegible]/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by [illegible] WAGAYE AND [illegible] WAGAYE, dated [illegible] and recorded [illegible], as Instrument No. [illegible], in Book , Page ), of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Alameda County, State of California, will sell on 05/25/2011 at 12:30PM, At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 CHRISTIE AVENUE #[illegible], EMERYVILLE, CA 94608. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $[illegible]. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: [illegible]/2011 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1800 Tapo Canyon Rd., CA6-914-01-94 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (626) 927-4399 By: Trustee's Sale Officer RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# [illegible] 05/[illegible]/2011, 05/[illegible]/2011, 05/[illegible]/2011

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. [illegible] Title Order No. [illegible] FHA/VA/PMI No.: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 06/26/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. NDEX WEST, LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 06/[illegible]/2007 as Instrument No. [illegible] of official records in the office of the County Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA. EXECUTED BY: STEVEN HILL, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States). DATE OF SALE: 05/31/2011 TIME OF SALE: 12:30 PM PLACE OF SALE: AT THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, OAKLAND, CA. STREET ADDRESS and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: [illegible] ST, EMERYVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94608 APN#: 04[illegible] The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $[illegible]. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: AGENCY SALES & POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 200 IRVINE, CA 92602 714-730-2727 www.fidelityasap.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 05/04/2011 NDEx West, L.L.C. 15000 Surveyor Boulevard, Suite 500 Addison, Texas 75001-9013 Telephone: (866) 795-1852 Telecopier: (972) 661-7800 ASAP# [illegible] 05/11/2011, 05/18/2011, 05/25/2011

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE APN [illegible] Trustee Sale No. [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED [illegible]. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On May 19, 2011, at 12:30 PM, AT THE FALLON STREET ENTRANCE TO THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1225 FALLON STREET, in the City of OAKLAND, County of ALAMEDA, State of CALIFORNIA, REGIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION, a California corporation, as duly appointed Trustee under that certain Deed of Trust executed by TODD J. SNYDERMAN AND SARAH E. COHEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, as Trustors, recorded on [illegible], as Instrument No. [illegible], of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, State of CALIFORNIA, under the power of sale therein contained, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, for cash, or cashier's check (payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States) without warranty express or implied as to title, use, possession or encumbrances, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it as such Trustee, in and to the following described property situated in the aforesaid County and State, to-wit: TAX PARCEL NO. 049-1528-[illegible] From information which the Trustee deems reliable, but for which Trustee makes no representation or warranty, the street address or other common designation of the above described property is purported to be [illegible] COMMODORE DRIVE, [illegible] EMERYVILLE, CA 94608. Said property is being sold for the purpose of paying the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust, including fees and expenses of sale. The total amount of the unpaid principal balance, interest thereon, together with reasonably estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale is $[illegible]. [illegible] Date of this Notice of Sale: [illegible] REGIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION, Trustee By: MARILEE HAKKINEN, AUTHORIZED AGENT Agent for Trustee: AGENCY SALES AND POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 200 IRVINE, CA 92602 Telephone Number: (800) 542-2550 Sale Information: (714) 730-2727 [illegible] ASAP# [illegible] 04/27/2011, 05/04/2011, 05/11/2011

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No GM-275[illegible]-C Loan No [illegible] Insurer No [illegible] YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED [illegible]/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. TRUSTOR: DERRICK LEE, AN UNMARRIED MAN Recorded 07/[illegible]/2006 as Instrument No. 2006[illegible] in Book XX, page XX of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California; Date of Sale: 06/06/2011 at 12:30 P.M. Place of Sale: At the Fallon Street entrance to the County Courthouse, 1225 Fallon Street, Oakland, CA 94612 Property Address is purported to be: 23 CITY LIMITS CIR EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 APN#: 049-1545-[illegible] The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is $[illegible], which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.54 the undersigned, on behalf of the beneficiary, loan servicer or authorized agent, declares as follows: [ ] The mortgage loan servicer has obtained from the commissioner a final or temporary order of exemption pursuant to Section 2923.53 that is current and valid on the date the notice of sale is filed; [ ] The timeframe for giving notice of sale specified in subdivision (a) of Section 2923.52 does not apply pursuant to Section 2923.52 or 2923.55. Date: 05/04/2011 EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, INC. 2255 North Ontario Street, Suite 400 Burbank, CA 91504-3120 Sale Line: 714-730-2727 Ramon Peterson, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER ASAP# [illegible] 05/11/2011, 05/18/2011, 05/25/2011

SAVAGE LOVE

# COLLEGIATE QUALMS

Plus bi life in the big city

By Dan Savage

*My life is not horrible. I'm an American college student. Compared to most people in the world, I'm pretty well off. I go to college in Bellingham, Washington — the weed is awesome, the weather is great, and there are lots of hot guys. Score! But I'm a homo. And I didn't know how horrible my life was until I got here.*

*It seems like every gay/queer person who is involved in anything gay/queer on campus has this idea that gay people are so oppressed that we need to constantly discuss it and feel like victims. Don't get me wrong. We are a ways away from equality, and I recognize this. But it seems like the constant thread on college campuses for queers — other than talking about Lady Gaga or sucking dick — is complaining about how oppressed queer people are.*

*How do I respectfully say, "STFU, we're doing just fine, you white upper-class American kids" without sounding like an insensitive ass-douche?*

*MG*

You know, when I came out to my parents in 1981ishwhateversomething, telling my mom and dad that I was gay didn't just mean telling them I liked to kissandotherstuff boys. It meant telling them I would never marry, never have children, and never be a Marine. Or at least that's what I thought I was telling them. But here we are, three short decades later, and I am married. And I have a child. And now I can be a Marine. (Not that I want to be a Marine — well, not anymore. After seeing a pic of a shirtless Navy Seal in last week's *New York Times*, I want to be a Navy Seal.)

And I live in Seattle, where the weed is awesome (I'm told), the weather is great (if you like to snowboard), and the boy I marriedandkissandotherstuff is a lotta hot guy all by himself.

I agree with you, MG. Things are good. Things have gotten better — and not just for me.

But we have work left to do. We have our full civil equality to secure, homo- and transphobic violence to confront, bigoted lawmakers to defeat (hey there, Rick!). But the discrimination and challenges we face shouldn't prevent us from appreciating the good things. Yes, it has gotten better.

So I'm with you, MG — up to a point.

I disagree about the STFU part. You don't have to hang out with the kind of LGBT activists who aren't capable of fighting the good fight — fighting for their civil equality and moaning and venting — while also appreciating all the good things about their lives. Not all LGBT activists are humorless scolds. Some are, for sure (and they tend to be overrepresented on college campuses), but there are plenty of people out there who can organize a protest one night and a good party the next.

Guys like you and me, MG, people who have it pretty good, have to remember that there are LGBT folks out there who have it lousy and not all of them are in a position to speak up for themselves. Let me see if I can think of an example... okay: There are bullied and isolated and abused LGBT kids out there who don't live in places like Bellingham or Seattle, who don't have the love and support of their parents, and who aren't "doing fine." If we don't speak up for isolated and bullied LGBT kids, who will? (For the record: There are lots and lots and lots of loved and accepted LGBT kids out there, too — not all LGBT kids are miserable — who are doing fine and fighting for their own rights and the rights of other LGBT kids.)

We don't have to mope. We don't have to pretend that we feel oppressed 24/7. And we don't have to attend pointless queer events that are run by LGBT whiners who mistake wallowing in self-pity for activism. You'll find, once you get out of college, that most of us aren't moping, pretending, or attending. Most of us are getting on with our lives and doing fine.

But, again, not all LGBT people are doing fine, MG, just as not all LGBT people are white or upper-class or in college or lucky enough to live in Bellingham. If you're in a position to do something, MG, you should. You don't have to do everything. Make your contribution. It doesn't have to take over your life, and you don't have to pretend to be any more oppressed than you actually are. But you should do something.

Remember: The only thing more annoying than a whiny, college-age queer with a persecution complex is a smug, college-age queer who takes his good fortune for granted and couldn't give a shit about other people because he—he's got his (his weed, his boys, his education).

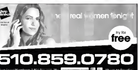
*I'm a 26-year-old lady who just broke up with a man I thought I wanted to marry. We had incredible, playful sex, were very kind to each other, are both a little queer, and share many interests in spite of our twenty-year age difference.*

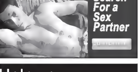
*Six months into our relationship, I moved to a bigger city four hours away, and we could see each other only every other weekend. Because of our careers, it wouldn't be possible for us to live in the same place again for at least two or three years, maybe more. That was one reason I broke up with him. I also feared that he needed to be with a man — even though he loves me to sit on his face. He's definitely bi, but he's never been with a man. I am, too, but having had girlfriends makes me comfortable knowing that I mostly want to be with men. Part of me is excited to be free to explore my new city on my own and trusts I made a mature decision. Part of me thinks I really fucked up to let go of a kind, fun — if slightly flawed (but they all are) — relationship. What do you think?*

*Drowning My Sorrows In Gin*

I think it's a wonderful thing to be 26, bi, single, employed, and living in a big city. I think that a guy who's single, bi, and amazing in bed at 46 is likely to be single, bi, and amazing in bed at 48. (No guarantees, of course.) You should enjoy the next couple of years, DMSIG, and then revisit the issue of Mr. Wonderful if and when you two or circumstances conspire to put you in the same place again. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage
mail@savagelove.net

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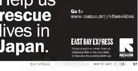
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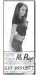

# Adult

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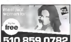

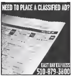

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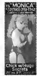

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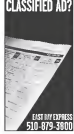
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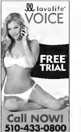
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